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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
440,000
No 63,236

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11 1988

30p

Channon pledges £266m after damning King's Cross report

Tube chiefs blamed on safety

Errors and complacency contributed to disaster

- Mr Paul Channon pledged immediate action and more money to improve safety on the London Underground in the wake of the King's Cross fire
- In an outspoken report, Mr Desmond Fennell, inquiry chairman, said the Underground suffered from blinkered and dangerous self-sufficiency
- Mr John Prescott, for Labour, said the responsibility for the "monumental failure" on safety lay with senior management and obsession on cost cuts
- The Home Office was studying a disaster planning unit to go into action after tragedies such as King's Cross and Zeebrugge

By Philip Webster, Rodney Cowton and Tony Dawe

A promise of immediate action to improve safety on the London Underground and cash to back it up were announced yesterday by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, after a damning report on the King's Cross fire.

He told the Commons that £266 million would be spent over the next three years to implement proposals received from London Regional Transport to enhance safety. He called on LRT urgently to implement the 157 recommendations made in the report of Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, who accused the Underground and its managers of a catalogue of errors and complacency.

In one of the most outspoken reports of any public

inquiry, Mr Fennell said the London Underground suffered from a dangerous, blinkered, self-sufficiency which included a general unwillingness to take advice or accept criticism from outside bodies.

He said the response of the

THE MAIN POINTS

- Fire equipment: Defects must be reported and remedied at once or alternative arrangements made.
- Fire brigade inspections: Any faults discovered during annual checks must be remedied within six weeks.
- Operations rooms: These must always be adequately staffed by suitably trained employees.
- Fire and safety training: Staff must be given regular instruction in use of equipment and station familiarization.
- Escalators: Programme of six or more renewals a year must be set up and new escalators should be easier to clean. Key wooden parts must be replaced with metal by July 1989.

Inquiry report 4, 5
Parliament 16
Leading article 19

staff on the night of the fire which killed 31 people was unco-ordinated, haphazard and untrained.

Dr Tony Ridley, chairman and chief executive of London Underground, announced his resignation shortly before the report was published, in the wake of the announcement of Sir Keith Bright, chairman of LRT.

Sir Neil Shields, the new LRT chairman, promised last night that the company would vigorously press ahead with the improvements.

In the Commons, Mr Channon, who rejected opposition calls to resign over the tragedy, said that many of the recommendations were already being acted upon, including the removal of wooden panelling from escalators.

He also announced:
● A special safety audit of the London Underground by the chief railways inspecting officer to be completed by next

March to identify further action required.

● New legislation to enforce safety standards at Underground stations. Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, is to bring forward regulations to require specific fire safety standards at Underground stations, which are not at present subject to cost cuts.

● The Home Office is considering proposals sent in by the public and outside bodies for a national disaster planning unit which will go into operation at times of tragedies such as Zeebrugge, King's Cross and Piper Alpha.

● Completion of steps to strengthen the Railway Inspectorate. A recruitment drive will bring it up to strength by the end of January. Mr Channon, who faced persistent Labour calls for his resignation, said the lessons of the tragedy must be fully learnt and fully applied.

He said: "The investigation has shown major shortcomings, requiring a new approach to safety management and fire prevention in the Underground, and specific safety audits by London Regional Transport."

He said that Sir Keith and Dr Ridley had reached the right conclusion in resigning.

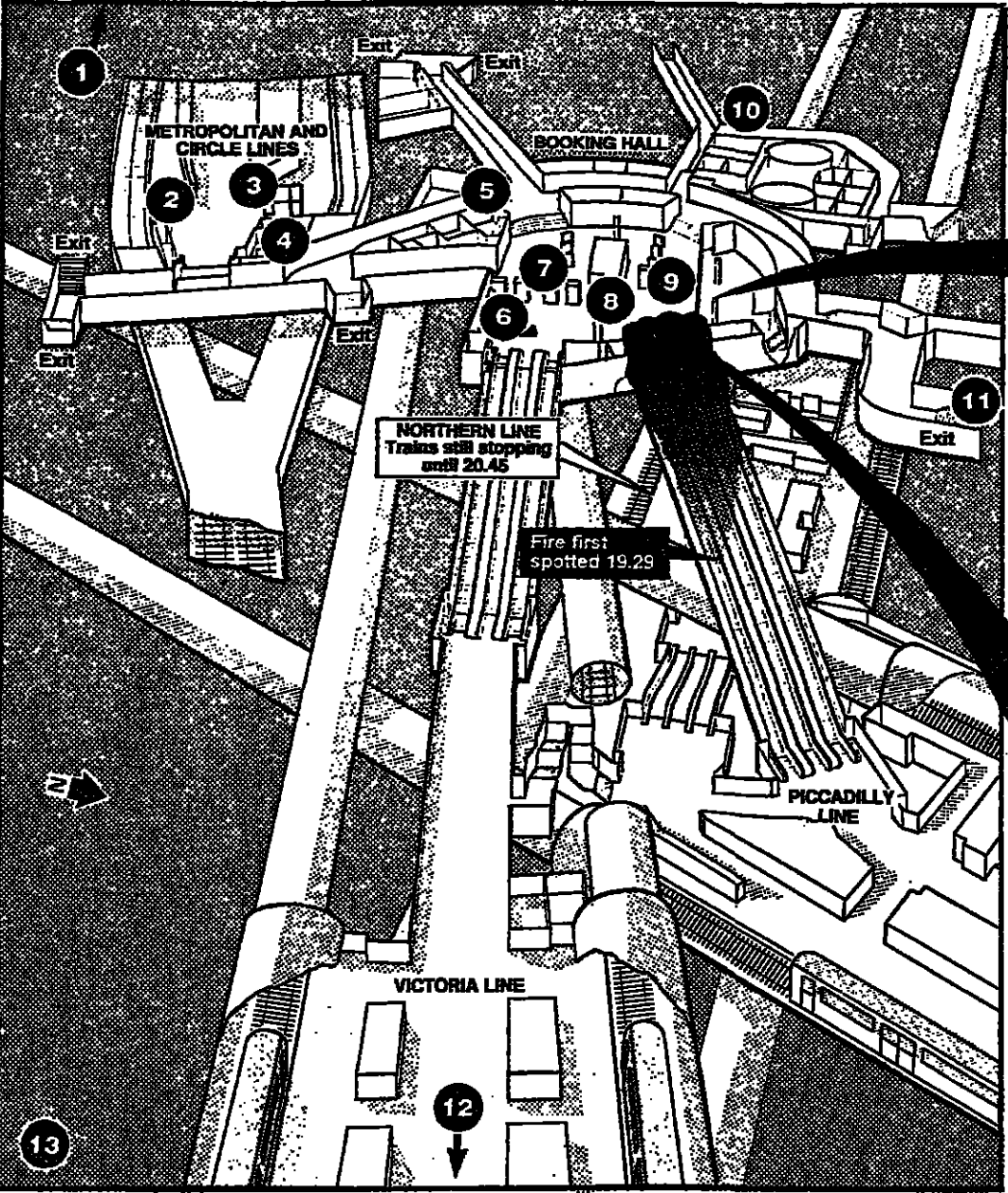
In his report, Mr Fennell said Sir Keith was mistaken in his view that safety of the Underground was not the strict responsibility of LRT and proposed that a safety audit shall be introduced which will be the yardstick by which safety is measured.

"Only with such a management tool can the Board of London Regional Transport and hence the general public through you, be satisfied that all aspects of safety are maintained at the proper level".

He said: "It is clear from what I heard that London Underground was struggling to shake off the rather blinkered approach which had characterized its earlier history and was in the middle of what Dr Ridley, the chairman and managing director, described as a change of culture and style."

"But in spite of that change the management remained of the view that fires were inevitable on the oldest and most extensive Underground"

Continued on page 24, col 2



Who was on duty at King's Cross as the fatal fire took hold



Dr Tony Ridley: second resignation in two days

This Times reconstruction shows the 7.30pm location of King's Cross staff who, according to the Fennell report, did not use "a drop of water nor any fire extinguishers".

1 Joseph Worrell, station manager, and Carl Pilgrim, relief manager, were in Mr Worrell's office. Mr Worrell made no attempt to offer the Fire Brigade assistance. Mr Pilgrim helped evacuate eight staff and remained behind. Brian Anstis, a clerk, and Anthony Emanuel, leading railman, were in the messroom. Mahendra Parmar, leading railman, was manning a barrier. Two book-

ing clerks, Smith and Misty, were manning a temporary ticket office.

2 Louis Emenecheta, leading railman, at ticket barrier. 3 Elliott Griffith, leading railman, at ticket barrier.

4 David Dhanpersaud, station inspector, Patricia Obena, railman, and Bertram White, railman, in the inspector's office. Mr Dhanpersaud unlocked gates linking the ticket hall with the Metropolitan and Circle lines, providing an escape route.

5 Robert Frankland, booking clerk, in a mess room without a phone, would not have known of the emergency if colleagues had not warned

him. 6 British Transport PC Terry Bebbington and Kenneth Kerby, in the ticket hall. Former radioed for the Fire Brigade at 19.33.

7 Philip Brickell, leading railman, went to investigate but did not know where hydrant was. 8 Derek Newman, booking clerk, in the ticket office, alerted relief inspector Chris Hayes. He did not think the fire was serious and stayed in the ticket office.

9 John Wood, leading railman, at ticket barrier. 10 Miss Kathleen Ord, leading railwoman, and Edward Swaby, leading railman, in mess room when should have been on duty.

11 PCs Patrick Balfe and Stephen Hanson in main line station. Hanson ran into the smoke to warn passengers and was caught in the flashover. Despite severe injuries he continued to help passengers.

12 Hayes, relief inspector, and Matthew Farrell, railman, in inspector's office. Malcolm Dyer, equipment technician, in a platform office. 13 Dennis Hills, part-time cleaner, on the Piccadilly Line. Mrs V Eusebe, leading railway woman, had been given permission to go to hospital. Relief booking clerk allowed to go home before his shift ended because on duty early next morning.

Debate on briefing refused by Cabinet

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Cabinet yesterday rejected the idea of a Commons debate on the subject of the Chancellor's disputed press briefing on social benefits. In just ten minutes they accepted the advice of Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons, that such a debate was not required by precedent.

Meanwhile Mr Robin Cook, Labour's Social Security spokesman, refused to help Cabinet Office officials who came to question him about the letter on poll tax rebates from Mr John Moore, the Social Services Secretary, to Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, leaked to Mr Cook by a civil servant.

Had the Cabinet agreed yesterday to find time for a Labour motion of censure on Mr Lawson, then Mrs Thatcher would have had to speak up in her Chancellor's

defence. She did so at Question Time in the Commons yesterday, when asked for the fourth time this week by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, whether or not she agreed with the Chancellor's opinion in the famous

Parliament 16
briefing that only a "tiny minority" of pensioners had difficulty in making ends meet.

Mrs Thatcher had ducked the previous three challenges on that question. This time she replied: "Only 18 per cent of pensioners are on income support. That is clearly a minority."

Although the Prime Minister still did not identify herself with the Chancellor's "tiny minority" she did clearly rally to his support by

Late SNP surge in Govan poll

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish National Party yesterday drafted scores of volunteer helpers into Govan to capitalize on its late surge in popularity as the by-election drew to a close.

Nationalists were confident they were in with a chance of beating Labour's Mr Bob Gillespie, despite his 19,500 majority.

Mr Chris McLean, SNP press officer, said they were staggered by the support their candidate, Mr Jim Sillars, was getting on the streets.

The SNP was encouraging as many supporters as possible to vote. This, coupled with traditional Labour voters' disillusion with Mr Gillespie, could capture the seat for the SNP in a historic victory.

Labour believes Mr Gillespie, who has admitted Labour's majority will be cut, will scrape home.

UK and Iran agree to restore links

By Nicholas Beeston

After eight years of suspicion and acrimony, Britain and Iran agreed in Vienna yesterday to restore full diplomatic relations.

A deal was struck after an all-night haggling session between Sir David Miles, the Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, and Mr Mahmoud Vaezi, his Iranian counterpart.

A confidential "memorandum of understanding", based on "reciprocity, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs", contains a seven-point agreement immediately to restore diplomatic relations and provides for an embassy in Tehran, headed by an ambassador, to

be staffed by a complement of 16 during the next six months. Mr Gordon Pirie, a Persian speaker who has twice been posted to Iran, is expected to leave for Tehran as chargé d'affaires in the coming weeks to reopen the embassy on Ferdowsi Avenue and prepare the chancery.

His predecessor, Mr Edward Chaplin, was beaten up by Revolutionary Guards and expelled during Britain's dispute with Tehran. This time all staff will have full diplomatic immunity.

"There can be no absolute

Continued on page 24, col 7

£290,000 'embarrassment' at Accumulator win

By Mark Souster

A retired couple from the picturesque village of Woodgreen, Hampshire, were celebrating yesterday after winning £290,000 in The Times Portfolio Accumulator game.

Mr Christopher Thornton, aged 62, a retired farmer, and his wife, Ann, aged 63, admitted they were delighted to have won. Mrs Thornton said: "I suppose we feel a little embarrassed as well. It's such a lot of money."

Mrs Thornton has been playing the game since its inception. She said: "Chris never took any interest in the game at all. He always said I would never win and didn't know why I wasted my time checking my cards every day. Now he knows why."

The win, only the third Accumulator prize to have been claimed and by far the biggest, has given Mrs Thornton a boost after she broke her left ankle. She said: "I put my foot in a hole while out shopping and fell over two weeks ago. I haven't been able to get around very much."

She said she was sitting sitting at the kitchen table of their eighteenth-century thatched cottage when she decided to check her cards. "I added up the numbers once and thought I must have made a mistake when I made it 44. I checked and re-checked then call Chris in from the garden. I said I thought I'd won the Accumulator. He didn't believe me but

checked for himself and found I had."

Mrs Thornton rang the claim telephone number at 9.45am only to hear a taped message asking her to call back at 10am. She said: "I was in shock for 15 minutes."

The couple retired to Woodgreen in 1981 after selling their 140-acre dairy and arable farm in Wiltshire. Part of the money from the sale was invested in the stock market while more went on the restoration of their home.

The cottage is set in more than an acre of ground in the New Forest. Mr and Mrs Thornton said their only immediate extravagance would be a new thatched roof. Mr Thornton said: "When we came here the place was in a terrible state. The floors were made of mud and the ceilings were so low I

couldn't stand up."

Mr and Mrs Thornton, who have one son, Sam, aged 36, and two grandsons, are active in village life. Mr Thornton devotes much of his time to cultivating and maintaining splendid gardens at the rear of their property. Mrs Thornton said: "Chris is the brains. He loves gardening. I am just the labourer." The gardens are open to the public every summer as part of the National Gardens Scheme, with proceeds going to charity.

Charities, in particular the Lord Mayor Treloar Trust for physically handicapped children at Alton, Hampshire, are also likely to benefit from their Accumulator win.

Continued on page 3, col 4

TOMORROW IN COLOUR

So long, sarong

● Bali is still an island of countless temples, but the young Balinese are more inclined to wear blue jeans than sarongs. Other traditions, however, seem unaffected by time and tourism. Tomorrow, in colour, The Times looks at Bali in the Eighties

Plus . . .

- Tired of lift queues and groomed pistes? Young daredevils who think conventional skiing is on a downhill run are going to new heights to recapture the old sense of adventure and exhilaration.
- On the chain gang: is there a place for the designer bicycle in the wheel world?
- Forever England: the British are returning to Le Touquet to buy cottages for the weekend.

Exam results
A list of degrees awarded by London University is published today Page 42

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NEWS ROUNDUP

BR ready to pay for tunnel blight

British Rail yesterday announced that it would buy at full market value properties blighted by the alternative routes for the proposed high-speed Channel tunnel rail link through Kent to London.

Its decision marks a change of heart, after publicity over the hardship it has caused dozens of families. British Rail had previously said it could not consider compensation claims until the Act of Parliament empowering it to build the line received the Royal Assent — which could take two years.

The British Railways Board said yesterday that property to be bought must be within the corridor of one of the proposed routes published in July 1988 and likely to be subject to compulsory purchase if that route was selected.

Murder link inquiry

Detectives hunting for the murderer of Sarah Harper, aged 10, who was killed after vanishing from her home near Leeds two years ago, yesterday questioned a man charged in London with attacking a child. The officers, from West Yorkshire, were alerted by a circular about the arrest as Scotland Yard began inquiries into the man's background. The officers are part of a unit linking six forces investigating the murder of the Yorkshire girl and the killings of Susan Maxwell in 1982 and Caroline Hogg in 1983.

Plea for missing girl

A distraught father appealed yesterday for the safe return of his daughter who disappeared while walking home from Maelor High School, Penley, Clwyd, two days ago. Police believe Anna Humphries, aged 15, may have been abducted near the place where she had arranged to meet her parents who were delayed by traffic. Mr Trevor Humphries said: "My feelings are extremely apprehensive for the safety of my daughter and I believe if she was acting on her own free will she would come back to us. If someone is holding Anna I would ask them to let her come home."

Talks on Belfast yard

The Government has begun negotiations with a "substantial company" interested in taking over the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, says Peter Viggers, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, disclosed yesterday in the Commons. He said that ministers had been searching for a buyer for the yard since negotiations broke down recently with Mr Ravi Tikoo, the Indian shipping tycoon.

Exclusive union deal

The Amalgamated Engineering Union has signed an exclusive recognition agreement with a high-technology company which already recognizes two other unions at other plants. The deal, negotiated by Mr Gavin Laird, AEU general secretary, gives the engineers rights for all the manual workers at the National Cash Register Corporation's new site in Duffryn, Gwent. It is effectively a single-union deal since the company will not recognize any other union and there will be only one or two white-collar workers employed at the factory.

Double rapist jailed

The rapist of a schoolgirl who recited Shakespeare to block out her ordeal was jailed yesterday for 14½ years at the Central Criminal Court. Aliou Ceesay, aged 23, was given 12 years for the knife-point rape, four years for an attempted sexual assault and 12 years for the rape of a secretary, to be served concurrently. Ceesay, unemployed, of Battersea, South London, also admitted escaping from Pentonville prison, assault, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods and was jailed for another 30 months, to be consecutive.

Nurses call off action at children's hospital

Nurses belonging to the Royal College of Nursing yesterday called off limited industrial action in the intensive care unit at Birmingham Children's hospital after pressure from their national officials. The RCN nurses had joined others from the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) in a work to rule which prevented new admissions of children awaiting heart operations at the hospital.

The action came after a dispute over regrading of nurses at the hospital. Eight RCN nurses decided on Wednesday to ignore their organization's code of conduct which forbids them from taking industrial action.

They banned all overtime and duties such as physiotherapy. But Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the RCN, implored them to return to normal working duties and said that failure to carry out tasks such as physiotherapy could lead to the death of young patients.

Mr Doug Langdon, Midlands representative of the RCN, said last night that members of the organization in the children's hospital had called off their action because they felt they had made their point about the unfairness of the new regrading system for nurses.

Oxford debates NHS

The debate over the future of the National Health Service transferred from the House of Commons to the Oxford Union last night. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was set to take the platform to defend the Government's record on the NHS, in a debate sponsored by *The Times*.

In spite of winning an extra £2 billion from the Treasury, Mr Clarke is involved in another dispute — regrading. He was to be supported last night in opposing the motion, "The NHS is not safe in the Government's hands", by Mrs Julia Cumberlege, chairman of South West Thames health authority, and former chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities.

The motion will be proposed by Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Social and Liberal Democratic Party, who will argue that the Government has allowed NHS funding to decline to irretrievable levels, and Mr Simon Stephens, president of the Union, now a hospital manager.

Anger over BAA's stand against new runways in South-east

Airlines study way to fund own airport

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Britain's airlines are studying plans to create their own international airport to avoid the congestion and overcrowding at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Airline chiefs are becoming increasingly frustrated at what they regard as the failure of BAA — formerly the British Airports Authority — to create new runway capacity, terminals, aircraft stands and check-in facilities in the South-east where it has a virtual monopoly.

Instead, the airlines say, it is concentrating on maximizing profits from shops and other concessions while failing

to create sufficient new runways and buildings to cater for expansion.

After a renewed declaration yesterday from Sir Norman Payne, BAA chairman, that no new runways were needed in the South-east before well into the next century, airline chiefs attending a conference in London on airport congestion admitted that new means of funding the development of the kind of airport they needed would have to be found.

Several airlines have undertaken detailed studies into the way a new airport would be built. They are convinced that financial institutions would readily provide the necessary cash — a small amount com-

pared with what is spent on new aircraft — which would enable them to build the new airport and then lease it back.

Among the sites under consideration are Manston, Lydd and Bristol, where runways already exist.

Outline ideas now being discussed informally include building a central terminal near London where passengers would be checked in and then taken on a high-speed rail link — possibly a monorail — direct to the aircraft.

Even if the chosen site was Bristol it is estimated that the total time involved from check-in to boarding the aircraft would be less than going to Heathrow or Gatwick and

struggling through the overcrowded gates.

The airport would also be outside the London air traffic control area and would therefore be less subjected to air traffic delays.

At yesterday's conference in London, organized by the Chartered Institute of Transport, Sir Norman angered representatives from the big airlines when he told them that only modest increases in aircraft movements were expected in the coming few years and that therefore "we do not believe that a further runway is needed in the South-east until the next century".

Mr Peter Owen, director of operations at British Airways, however, issued a warning

that the number of applications for take off and landing slots at Gatwick next summer would be 50 per cent greater than last year.

Mr Peter Smith, managing director of the International Leisure Group, which owns Air Europe, said: "There is simply insufficient capacity in the south-east of England to begin to cope with the planned growth."

His own airline, he said, was unlikely to be able to fly more than 60 per cent of the routes for which it already had licences.

The airlines' proposals are certain to receive tacit approval from the Department of Transport, where Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State,

has openly backed the involvement of private investors in building new transport links.

However, they will be attacked by regional airports which are convinced that if airlines developed services from the provinces much of the problem could be overcome.

Mr Ian Cran, airport director of Cardiff, said: "The limitation upon capacity at regional airports lies not in the lack of it but in filling it. There is a gross misuse of this national resource."

Conference delegates formally rejected Sir Norman's claim that no new runways were needed in the South-east until the next century.

MPs claim benefits staff fail to tell people their rights

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Department of Social Security officials were failing in their statutory duty to inform people of their eligibility for benefits, the powerful Commons public accounts committee said yesterday.

The committee said in a unanimous report that an estimated £570 million in supplementary benefit and £55 million in income supplement was unclaimed in 1983-84, the latest year for which figures were available.

The report will add to government embarrassment at a time when Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is being accused of wanting to means test benefits, which would target help on the less well-off.

The report said the Department of Social Security (DSS) believed present legislation put the onus on individuals to decide whether or not to claim benefit.

However, the MPs said they "firmly believe that Parliament intended that individuals' decisions should be based on the best possible information".

They said: "We therefore

consider it essential that claimants and potential claimants, some of whom are the most impoverished and deprived people in society, are fully aware of the benefits for which they are eligible... We are not satisfied that all offices are adequately fulfilling the department's role."

The report says that while some of the 500 local offices were positively encouraging take-up of benefits, others "may be failing to meet statutory requirements by restricting their activities".

The MPs cited a recent survey by the National Audit Office which had shown that a quarter of supplementary benefit claimants had difficulty in obtaining information.

They criticized past reliance on written forms of communication when many of those who the department was trying to reach had inadequate literacy.

The Tory-dominated committee pointed to growing demand for information about benefits from local authorities, Citizens Advice Bureaux and welfare rights groups, who

attributed that to deficiencies in the Government's service. The report acknowledged that the DSS had started taking remedial steps.

However, it urged the department to tell all local offices exactly what they were required to do and to ensure that they complied.

The MPs also criticized the poor service offered by a number of local offices, particularly those in London and the inner cities.

"We are particularly concerned that at some offices claimants have to queue for hours, often in very bad conditions; that they experience extended delays before their claims are processed; and that even then the local office assessment may be inaccurate", they said.

The DSS had agreed that in some respects the service had been "unacceptable". However, the department said that it believed that the system was now working more effectively.

Committee of Public Accounts: Quality of Service to the Public at Local DSS Offices (Stationery Office, £4.70)

Helicopter rescue



Survivors of the helicopter which ditched into the North Sea arriving at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary last night.

By Kerry Gill

Questions were raised last night over helicopter safety in the North Sea as 13 men were rescued in a textbook operation after their helicopter was forced to ditch 130 miles north of Aberdeen.

Oil industry workers leapt for safety as their Sikorsky S-61 ditched in rough seas and later turned turtle and sank. Afterwards it emerged that seven of them survived by forming a human chain and treading water in the near-freezing conditions.

Six of the men, including the two helicopter pilots, managed to get into a liferaft before being winched to safety by a rescue helicopter. They were then transferred to the BP Forties field and later flown to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

All six were said to be physically well, but suffering from shock and cold. The other seven managed to remain afloat in the bitter conditions due to their life-jackets and survival suits.

The skipper of the Granplan King, standby vessel for the Claymore oil platform, whose fast rescue launch picked them up, said: "The men went by the book. They did a really good job and managed to stay together."

The operation was completed within just 40 minutes of the accident, but questions will again be asked over safety in the North Sea. The helicopter was operated by British International Helicopters. The ditching took place almost exactly two years after a Chinook crashed off Sumburgh in Shetland with the loss of 45 lives.

The Sikorsky was on a crew change flight from the Sedco

703 drilling rig operated by Amerasia Hess. The pilot of the helicopter experienced vibrations and noticed a sudden drop in oil pressure. He then attempted to reach the safety of the Claymore platform but, when about three miles from it, was forced to ditch the craft into the sea.

The seven men picked up by the rescue launch were then transferred to the Maersk Cutter which was making for Peterhead, about 30 miles north of Aberdeen, where they were due to berth last night.

Yesterday's accident to the Sikorsky helicopter could have been prevented had it been fitted with a new British warning device now under test (Harvey Elliott writes).

The device, known as HUMS — Health and Usage Monitoring System — automatically monitors the condition of the engine, gearbox and transmission through a series of sensors which pick up early indications of vibration and metal fatigue.

One set is already fitted to a Bristow Tiger helicopter where it is undergoing flight tests. The other, produced jointly by Hawker Siddeley and Stewart Hughes, is due to be installed in a British International Helicopters Sikorsky S-61 of the type that made what was described as "a textbook precautionary landing" yesterday.

The equipment will then be subjected to rigorous tests over 18 months to ensure that it is capable of working in the hostile environment of the North Sea.

It is shown to work the Civil Aviation Authority is likely to order all helicopters working over the sea to be fitted with the device.

Newspaper wins Archer case claim

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Mail on Sunday has withdrawn claims that *The Sunday Times* failed to publish allegations about Mr Jeffrey Archer, former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party and a proponent for "political reasons" and because of its "toxic" links with Conservative Central Office.

The newspaper said yesterday in a statement agreed in settlement of a libel action started by Mr Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, that it withdrew "unreservedly" claims about Mr Neil and apologized for them. Costs and damages of about £10,000 are believed to have been agreed as part of the settlement.

Mr Alastair Brett, company solicitor for *Times Newspapers*, said in a statement to the High Court that in November 1986 *The Mail on Sunday* published an article on "the then current scandal" involving Mr Jeffrey Archer and Miss Monica Coghlan.

The News of the World had published a story the previous month alleging that Mr Archer had tried to pay Miss Coghlan £2,000 to leave Britain. Mr Archer was awarded libel damages of £500,000 against *The Star* newspaper after a High Court jury decided allegations that he had sexual relations with the woman were untrue.

The Mail on Sunday article said that the only national newspaper not to follow up on Mr Archer and Miss Coghlan was *The Sunday Times*.

Mr Brett said the article went on to say that the real reason for *The Sunday Times* not reporting the *News of the World* story was not that given by Mr Neil, who said it was not the kind of story he wished to see in his newspaper.

The Mail on Sunday said Mr Archer had telephoned Mr Neil and "pleaded with him that he might survive as deputy chairman of the Conservative Party if the *News of the World* was the only newspaper to carry the story".

Mr Brett said: "The article then went on to suggest that Mr Neil's links with Tory Central Office were thought to be 'too cosy' and that he had agreed not to run the story because of these alleged political links."

He said the defendants, *The Mail on Sunday*, Mr Stewart Stevens, its editor, and Mr Iain Walker, a journalist, accepted "Mr Archer did not plead with Mr Neil as reported".

Mr Roderick Dadak, for the defendants, said Mr Stevens and *The Mail on Sunday* accepted entirely that Mr Neil did not suppress the story for political reasons and that they regretted any such inference.

IBA employees

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has 1,400 employees, not 14,000 as reported on Wednesday.

Student top-up loans

'Heavier burden' for parents

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The National Union of Students yesterday criticized the Government's proposals to introduce top-up loans.

It said that they will lead to "widespread increases in student hardship, and force an even heavier burden on parents".

The union said that because the Government plans to abolish income support for students when loans are set up in September 1990, parents will suffer.

Students, the union claimed, will also suffer because "many have to enter into 52-week contracts for accommodation" when they are living outside college rooms.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said on Wednesday that the reason for removing students from the benefit system was to end their reliance on a "dependency culture", particularly since they were never intended to be part of the welfare state.

The union said that in London a student paying the average rent of £35 a week stands to lose more than £28.60 over the academic year — after he has taken advantage of the government loan allowance of £340 a year, but

lost out on housing benefit. Students living outside London, paying rents of £21 a week but receiving no housing benefit, stand to gain £170 a year, if they take the annual loan of £310.

"These figures may not sound much, but the grant has declined in real terms by 21 per cent over the last six years — so students will be getting into debt with the Government to keep themselves at the present inadequate level, and will continue to borrow from the commercial banks", a union spokesman said.

However, Mr Simon Chaplin, a third-year science student at the Cambridge Institute of Art and Technology, said he would have to borrow only £600 — £800 from the Government to supplement his income if the legislation was introduced immediately.

Although his income from his parents at £2,400 a year is slightly higher than the grant allowance of £2,050, he estimates that without housing benefit he would have £26 a week to live on and buy books after paying rent.

"I would be slightly better off under the loans scheme, because although they will charge interest on the loans, the rate will follow inflation which should be well below

the minimum lending rate", he said.

Miss Jackie Sommerville, a first-year mature student at Sussex University, has two children aged nine and seven. "I would never have thought of coming into higher education if I knew I would have to borrow to do it", Miss Sommerville, who will be eligible for a loan in her last year at Sussex in 1990, said.

"I studied for four years for A levels and lived on the dole. The idea that I would have had a debt hanging over me when I left university would have put me off from the start", she said.

Miss Sommerville receives a grant of £2,050, as well as an allowance of £1,700 for her two children. Unlike students without dependants she will be able to continue claiming benefits such as social security.

Dr Clive Booth, director of Oxford Polytechnic, said: "I cannot help thinking that the Government's proposals will depress the number of students coming into higher education."

However, Sir Graham Hills, Vice-Chancellor of Strathclyde University, said welcomed the plans and called on universities and students to come up with radical plans for funding higher education.

£170 'dial anywhere' phone

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

The world's first CT2 telephone, a portable pocket-sized one costing about £170, was launched yesterday to mark a revolution in communication technology.

Unveiled in London by Shaye Communications, the Winchester-based electronics company, the Forum telephone is the result of a British-led breakthrough in telecommunications. It is attracting international attention.

The telephone, which weighs less than 6oz, allows users to make outgoing calls from anywhere within 200 yards of a book-sized "base station", which connects the call to the national network.

Unlike far more expensive cellular phones, the CT2 device uses digital technology which should give better sound quality and prevent eavesdroppers from intercepting calls.

"For the first time the consumer will be able to have a single telephone that is personal to them, one which they will be able to take with them at all times and use in the home, in the office and when they are out and about", Mr Bill Jeffrey, chief executive of Shaye, said.

The company has signed an agreement with the UK subsidiary of Motorola, the US electronics company, to set up a national network of base stations. Those will be targeted



initially on the 50 busiest railway stations in Britain, shopping centres, motorway service stations and airports.

Customers will be charged a connection fee of about £35, and a monthly subscription of £7. However, unlike the cellular phone network, the cost of a call will be about the same as that from a public call-box.

Labour Party guilty of Red Cross sign misuse

Mr Larry Whitty, general secretary of the Labour Party, was found guilty yesterday of misusing the Red Cross emblem in the Opposition's pre-Budget campaign against the Government's funding of the National Health Service.

Mr Whitty was conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay £200 costs. He said after the hearing at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, south-west London, that the prosecution was a politically motivated move by the Government to stifle a Labour campaign.

Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, alleged that the Labour Party had chosen to make clear use of a red cross sign in a campaign to put pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to spend on the NHS rather than on tax cuts. Mr Amlot said the Red Cross had "always considered

it of vital importance that it can act at all times under an emblem which is recognized internationally as a sign of neutrality and impartiality".

Mr Whitty pleaded not guilty to using without authority of the Ministry of Defence a sign so closely resembling the Red Cross symbol that it was capable of being mistaken for it, contrary to the Geneva Conventions Act, 1957.

In a separate case, Mr Phil Kelly, editor of the left-wing *Tribune* newspaper, of Holloway, north London, was conditionally discharged for a year for a similar offence.

During the three previous trials, Mr Kelly was charged with using the Red Cross emblem in a campaign to put pressure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to spend on the NHS rather than on tax cuts. Mr Amlot said the Red Cross had "always considered

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Women
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20% miss

Rape claim

Civil case con

Jury queried
evidence at

Women's fears may hinder scheme to fight breast cancer

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

British women's high death rate from breast cancer may be partly because they do not believe it can be cured and have too little faith in doctors, an international expert says.

Dr Bengt Lundgren, a Swedish specialist who invented a breast cancer screening technique used in many countries, says in the *British Medical Journal* today that the negative attitudes of many women will jeopardize the success of the Government's new nationwide breast cancer screening programme.

The programme, which will cost £30 million initially, is based on a long-running Swedish system, and is being introduced next year. About 15,000 women a year in Britain die from breast cancer, ten times more than in Sweden, although the population is only about six times greater.

"My interpretation of the high British mortality-incidence rate is that there might be a widespread scepticism regarding the ability of doctors to cure cancer at all," he says.

The attitudes of British women are influenced by social class differences, belief in the rights of the individual, and "deep rooted suspicion" of authoritative directions from above, Dr Lundgren

Unemployment and poverty in Britain are of "overwhelming importance" in increases of cot deaths and other unexpected fatalities in babies, according to evidence published in *The Lancet* today.

In another report in the *British Medical Journal*, researchers say that children whose mothers smoked heavily during pregnancy are likely to be less clever at school, as well as shorter in height, than the average.

says: "The poverty-related part of the problem — ignorance, alienation and suspicion — combined with the slightly paranoid civic attitude may well be responsible for a largely ill-founded lack of confidence in medicine."

That in turn may have led to the "strikingly high" death rate from breast cancer, and could explain why a large number of women in Britain do not seek medical help until they have an advanced form of the disease, he says.

Instead of launching the programme, there should perhaps be a "very ambitious and loud sustained campaign" aimed at changing attitudes and inspiring confidence in the ability of medicine to cure

breast cancer, he says. Dr Lundgren's views have found support among some British cancer specialists and researchers.

Professor Jocelyn Chamberlain, of the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, wrote recently in *The Lancet*: "Women at high risk tend to be non-participants (in pilot screening projects), some perhaps refusing the screening invitation because they are fearful that a known breast lump will be diagnosed as cancer."

Dr Lesley Fallowfield, a psychiatrist at The London Hospital Medical College, says in the *British Medical Journal* today: "Acceptance of an invitation to screening is likely to be a vast problem in Britain".

Women who cannot afford expensive infertility treatment will be paid for from part of the fees of those who can, under a scheme launched yesterday at Fazzakerley Hospital, Liverpool. It is hoped to help 240 couples each year.

The Government is to spend another £16.5 million on the quest for a vaccine and drugs against Aids. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

20% miss outpatient dates

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

One in five patients may be failing to attend hospital appointments, leading to wasted resources and longer waiting times for other patients, according to a study.

The survey, published in the *British Medical Journal* today, showed that 20 per cent of patients referred from one general practice failed to keep their initial hospital outpatient appointments.

It covered 269 referrals over 14 weeks and showed that only seven of the 105 patients whose hospital date was two months or less after referral failed to attend. The number of patients failing to keep appointments increased with waiting times.

Seventeen of the 41 non-attendances were because hos-

pitals had not received the referral letters.

The paper says: "Serious flaws exist in the communication process and means must be sought to overcome them if patient care is not to suffer".

Dr Keiran McGlade from the department of general practice, Queen's University, Belfast, who carried out the study with colleagues at the Stewartstown Road Health Centre, Belfast, said non-attendance may be due to forgetfulness or because complaints had cleared up spontaneously.

Other reasons for defaulting included fear or mistrust of hospitals: fear of serious illness being found; adequate reassurance from the GP and factors such as transport diffi-

culties. The authors were worried GPs received only eight "did not attend" slips after appointments were broken.

Health authorities are delaying developments for the care of the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped and the elderly, because of the Government's indecision, health policy analysts said yesterday.

The "continuing failure" of ministers to respond to the report on community care by Sir Roy Griffiths, the Prime Minister's adviser on health, was causing great concern among health and social services managers, a report by the King's Fund Institute says.

Community Care: Reacting To Griffiths (King's Fund Institute, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF, £1).

Rape claim ruling delayed

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Justice Caulfield last night reserved judgement in the High Court at the end of an unprecedented civil action for damages by an alleged rape victim.

The case is the first in which a victim has sued her alleged attacker without the backing of a criminal conviction.

The judge said he needed time to consider the action after the hearing at Chelmsford. He said: "I have never had a case like this before — no one has".

If the woman succeeds the Director of Public Prosecutions, who ruled against criminal proceedings after reviewing the evidence, is expected to reconsider the matter.

The woman, a primary

school teacher aged 25, has accused her physiotherapist of rape and other indecent acts at his surgery in Benfleet, Essex, on December 23, 1985.

She said the surgery was empty at the time, but counsel for the defence has produced nine witnesses who testified that they were present on the afternoon in question and heard nothing that was untoward.

The defence has also said that the teacher, from Basildon, Essex, was disturbed and fantasized her ordeal.

The judge said yesterday he was sceptical about the evidence of psychiatrists whose views differed on what did or did not happen and said that what they had to say was

"extremely dangerous because it becomes a trial by doctors".

Earlier yesterday, Mr Anthony Hidden, QC, for the defence, said that curtains between the three cubicles at the surgery ruled out any possibility that a rape could have happened without it being witnessed or overheard.

However, Mr John Melville Williams, QC, for the plaintiff, discounted the evidence by witnesses who had attended the physiotherapist's surgery on the afternoon of the alleged rape.

Mr Melville Williams said there was a gap in their attendance in which the teacher had been left alone in the surgery with the defendant.

Civil case could open floodgates

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

If the Essex teacher wins her civil action for alleged rape, it could trigger a spate of similar claims by victims of violent crime where there may not be sufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution.

However, Mr John Spencer, lecturer in law at Cambridge University, doubts whether this will happen. For, he said yesterday: "It is only worth suing if someone has money".

The main advantage of

going through the civil rather than criminal courts is the lower standard of proof that applies in civil cases: the judge has to be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the claim is correct; a criminal court must be satisfied "beyond reasonable doubt".

However a problem for women who resort to civil action is that they do not have the protection of anonymity which applies to those alleging

rape in the criminal courts. Another factor is whether the likely award would exceed that paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The board awarded the teacher £6,152 but, under its rules, if another award is obtained, the board's award must be repaid.

Awards in the civil courts could be far higher but must be weighed against the potentially huge cost of losing.

Jury queries police evidence at inquest

The jury at the inquest on Glyn Davies yesterday asked to see a reconstruction of his killing.

The jury told Mr Richard Van Oppen, the East Devon coroner, they were not sure police evidence was completely accurate about the final confrontation with Davies.

Mr Van Oppen said any reconstruction could only be based on the evidence of the police involved, but could be arranged if the jury still felt it necessary after hearing the rest of the evidence.

The inquest has been told how police tracked Davies, nicknamed the Wild Man of Chard, for 85 miles across Devon and Somerset before shooting him at a roadblock in a lane near Chard, Somerset.

He had gone on the run with his daughter Nicki, aged three, after threatening police and a bailiff who had come to his home in Chard to take the

child to his estranged wife. A police marksman who shot at and missed Davies saw his finger on the trigger of his shotgun, the inquest at Culmpton was told yesterday.

Sergeant Christopher Davis said he fired because he feared for the lives of colleagues as Davies came towards the police line and raised his pump action shotgun.

"He was about 30 feet from me. I could see his index finger inside the trigger guard. Even at this critical point warnings were still being shouted, but Davies showed no reaction."

"Therefore I fired two rounds and I was aware of a police shotgun fired simultaneously. I understand my shots did not hit him."

Sergeant Davis said he had little experience of firearms before his police training, and qualified two months before the incident.

The case continues today.

Mother is not guilty of murder

A mother accused of killing her daughter was yesterday found not guilty of murder on the orders of a judge.

Michelle Worthington, aged 22, of Jacobs Close, Clonfield, Hampshire, had denied murdering her daughter, Sarah, aged three, in October last year with Stephen Thorpe, the man with whom she lived.

Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, at Winchester Crown Court, said the child was killed by a single blow and Mr David Elfer, QC, for the prosecution, had said there was no safe evidence to suggest Miss Worthington was present when the blow was struck.

Mr Thorpe still faces a charge of murder and he and Miss Worthington are also charged with cruelty to the child.

The case continues today.

Welcoming a £290,000 problem

By Vivien Goldsmith
Family Money Editor

Winning the Portfolio Accumulator has left Mrs Ann Thornton, a retired farmer's wife, with a pleasant £290,000 problem. She is more than happy in her thatched house and so moving is not on the agenda.

Her father was in the City and she has always been interested in shares, having a portfolio managed by a London broker.

Her top priority is the education of her two grandsons, aged seven and four and at preparatory school. Fraser

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Marr, school fees specialists, calculate she would have to set aside £256,000 to fund a total of £101,000 in fees to put both through day school from eight to 18 or £106,000 to find a total of £294,000 in fees for boarding school.

That money would be invested in National Savings and gradually withdrawn to fund endowment policies written in trust for them, providing all sorts of tax benefits.

It would be classed as a Potentially Exempt Transfer (PET) for inheritance tax purposes, meaning no tax would be payable if Mrs Thornton survived seven years. In any case, she has an allowance of £110,000 plus £6,000 from her annual gifts limit, which would be tax free.

Giving the money directly to the grandchildren, likely to be non-taxpayers, would by-pass her own children and save on inheritance tax.

Winners sharing yesterday's £4,000 prize were Mrs Rosalind Hore, of Rectory Road, Storrington, West Sussex; Mr Stephen Samuels, of Copthall Gardens, Twickenham; and Mr H Spencer, Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey.

£3,000 in weighting for City secretaries

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Companies are raising London allowances and enlarging the area covered to attract and retain skilled clerical and secretarial staff, according to an Incomes Data Services report. Salaries are being increased, performance-related pay introduced and more attractive perks being offered.

Some employers have been using more temporary staff to alleviate shortages and at least one agency has been considering supplying company cars for top-flight secretaries.

Some finance sector organizations pay an inner London allowance of £3,000 or more, the report says. All the big clearing banks pay £3,000 within three miles of Charing Cross. Yet basic salaries for the lowest grade of clerical worker can be less than £4,000.

The 66 organizations examined showed a huge difference in salary ranges. The scale maximum for senior executive secretaries at the National Westminster Bank is £17,082, or more than £20,000 if they work in London.

Taking London as a whole, almost half the secretaries with shorthand — in spite of word processing still the most sought after skill — earn more than £10,000.

The report shows that the highest median salary of clerical staff in London of £9,376 is 61.6 per cent higher than the lowest median salary of £5,800 in the Midlands.

Performance-related pay is an increasingly common feature of pay structures for clerical workers and is particularly noticeable in the financial sector.

IDS Study 420, November 1988 (IDS Ltd, 193 St John Street, London EC1; by subscription).



Mrs Thornton giving pet Tuppy a hug yesterday (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Charity may benefit from big win

Continued from page 1

died, was educated at the Alton school. Both have a deep regard for the trust's work, which they have supported over the years.

There are no plans for a wild spending spree. "I shan't go and blow it all at the casino," Mrs Thornton said. However, her husband rejoined: "I don't know. That doesn't seem a bad idea."

Mrs Thornton said she still couldn't believe that she had

won. "At the moment I feel I'm going to wake up and find it's all been a dream."

Playing Portfolio has helped Mrs Thornton keep up with the couple's investments. However, she never expected to win. "I always hoped I might share an eighth of £4,000 just for a giggle. I don't wish to sound ungrateful but I honestly wish I shared it with someone else," she said.

There are no exotic holidays on the horizon either. Mrs

Thornton said: "We have next year planned already and it doesn't really include time for a holiday."

Mr Thornton, who has been cooking and washing up during his wife's incapacity, said: "We don't want any luxuries like a swimming pool."

She said: "I think I've had enough of fast food."

The only other spending may be on a car to replace their estate car which was damaged in an accident.

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THE KING'S CROSS INQUIRY

The single match that lit an inferno

Report highlights lack of safety and bad management

Thirty-one people died when a small blaze on an escalator at King's Cross Underground station erupted into a terrifying flash-over on November 18 last year. The following day Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, announced a public inquiry would be held. It was chaired by Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, and sat for 90 days, hearing an estimated three million words from 150 witnesses and studying 85,000 documents. Yesterday Mr Fennell presented his report, containing 247 pages, 14 appendices and 17 charts and diagrams.

In his conclusion, he said that if the answers of witnesses and "this report serve the ends of safety and remind people that above all they must place safety first, the investigation will have achieved its goal."

Mr Fennell says that there were three questions at the heart of his investigation:

- How did the fire start?
- Why was there a flashover?
- Why did 31 people die?

It is clear from the evidence that people continued to smoke in the Underground in spite of the ban in February 1985 after the fire at Oxford Circus station. They did so in particular by lighting up on the escalator as they prepared to leave the station. The court was provided with details of 46 escalator fires between 1956 and 1988 and in 32 instances the cause was attributed to smokers' materials.

About two weeks before the disaster, gaps were observed between the treads and the skirting board on the Piccadilly Line escalator 4 at King's Cross. They were caused by the crabbing movement of the escalator. Thus there were gaps through which a lit match could pass. Moreover 30 per cent of fire cleats were missing, making it easier for a match to fall through the gap.

Beneath each side of the treads lay the running tracks of the escalator. Those tracks should have been cleaned and

lubricated properly. They were not. There was an accumulation of grease and detritus (dust, fibre and debris) on the tracks which constituted a seed bed for a fire and it was into that bed that the match fell.

When the escalator's skirting board was examined it was clear from the burn marks that fires had started on many previous occasions. They had gone out. On November 18, 1987, the fire bed ignited and the grease on the right-hand running track began to melt. The fire had started.

Why was there a flashover?

The fire began at about 19:25 probably in the vicinity of step 48. Since the escalator was running, the fire was carried up nearer the top.

The fire beneath the escalator produced significant pre-heating of the balustrades and decking which made them

more susceptible to ignition. The fire on the running track ignited the dry plywood skirting board, impregnated with oil and grease, providing a path for the fire beneath to spread to the top side.

The flames passing between the treads and skirting board, the balustrades coated with yacht varnish and the treads and risers.

The sudden change in conditions between 19:43 and 19:45, when a modest escalator fire was transformed into the flashover which erupted into the ticket hall, proved immensely difficult for the scientific committee to explain. Mr Fennell said he was now satisfied that what has been identified as the "trench effect" is the proper scientific explanation.

In essence, when the fire is burning on one balustrade only, the flames behave in

conventionally and rise more or less vertically out of the trench into the main airstream. When both balustrades and the floor of the trench become involved, air can no longer entrain into the uphill side of the flames and a switch in regime occurs. The flames lie in the escalator trench, and hot gases are mainly constrained to follow in the trench: pre-heating of the wood ahead of the flame becomes much more intense and the flames extend rapidly up the trench.

The fire was transformed in character by the trench effect causing it to erupt into the ticket hall at about 19:45, preceded or accompanied by black smoke.

Why did 31 people die? The alarm was raised by a passenger at about 19:30. Following the procedure in the rulebook one of the staff went to inspect. But he was not based at King's Cross and he had received no fire training: he informed neither the station manager nor the line controller. London Underground had no evacuation plan. By chance, two police officers were present and as their radios did not work below ground, one ran to the surface to call the London Fire Brigade. It was 19:34.

Thereafter the police decided to evacuate passengers from the lower levels of the station by way of the Victoria Line escalator and through the ticket hall. They did not know the station's geography and believed they had chosen the quickest and only way for passengers to escape in safety. They could not have anticipated the flashover or the immense amount of dense smoke.

The first London Fire Brigade personnel reached the ticket hall about 19:43, only two minutes before the flashover. It was too late for them to do anything. Between 19:30 and 19:45 not one single drop of water had been applied to the fire.

It is apparent from all the evidence which was given at the investigation that the London Underground staff at King's Cross station that night were woefully ill-equipped to meet the emergency that arose.

Those on duty did the best they could using their common sense in the absence of training and supervision. Had the water fog equipment been used there is reason to think that the progress of the fire would have been delayed and the London Fire Brigade might have been able to deal with it.

In fact, not a drop of water was applied to the fire nor any fire extinguishers used by the London Underground staff.

There was no effective communication between those present on either side of the station and those outside, and several opportunities for the exchange of vital information between London Underground and London Fire Brigade personnel were lost. There was also uncertainty over which of the London Underground staff was in charge.

Mr Fennell says that in all probability he had been trying to assist another victim when he was overcome.

The flashover divided the Underground into two worlds, each believing it had lost touch with the other. Those on the surface believed that those beneath were trapped or probably dead: those beneath had no idea what was happening above.

The Brigade had no information as to what was going on down below and did not attempt to obtain it from London Underground. In addition they had no information as to the precise layout of the underground station, and no assistance from London Underground until 21:15.

Had Temporary Sub-Officer Bell and Station Officer Osborne taken with them their personal radios, communications between them and those at the top of the escalator might have remained open.

Although the occupier of property should invariably provide a guide to meet the Fire Brigade on arrival, where such a guide is not provided and the Fire Brigade have no detailed knowledge of the geography, it is their duty to obtain details forthwith.

We are concerned that on the night, Fire Brigade did not seek out an official of London Underground to obtain details of the complicated layout of the Underground station.

Regarding the death of Station Officer Townsley, Mr

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November 18, 1987: The scene on the street outside King's Cross. Below ground, 31 people were dying from asphyxiation after a fire caused by a careless match thrown on a wooden escalator (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Timetable of events leading to disaster

Mr Fennell gives a detailed timetable of the events leading up to and following the fire. Among the key items are:

19:29. A passenger travelling up the Piccadilly Line escalator noticed a small fire underneath a step at the right-hand side of the upper part of the escalator. He reported it at the ticket office to the booking clerk.

19:32. Some further alarm was raised by another passenger with another booking clerk. PC Terry Bebbington telephoned the British Transport Police headquarters to raise the alarm.

19:38. Relief Station Inspector Christopher Hayes who was on duty that night unlocked and entered the machine room beneath the upper part of escalator number 5 from where he saw smoke and flames beneath escalator 4. He returned to the machine room to collect a carbon

dioxide extinguisher, but he was unable to get near enough to the fire to use it. He did not attempt to use the water fog equipment. He was preoccupied and forgot about it.

19:39. Police officers in the ticket hall took the decision to evacuate the area.

19:42. The first fire appliance with Station Officer Colin Townsley arrived. "Within a very short time the whole ticket hall became engulfed in dense heat and thick black smoke. There was darkness and screaming. A fireman ordered his crew to lead the public out and run for their lives. The flashover had taken place. The time was shown by the heat of the flashover. It was 19:45."

19:53. London Fire Brigade controller informed London Underground headquarters controller "full fire at King's Cross."

20:03. Assistant Division Officer Clifford Shore ordered: "Make pumps 12" and "Make ambulances 4."

20:08. London Ambulance Service put hospitals on standby alert.

20:16. London Ambulance Service major accident was declared. Hospitals alerted.

20:17. Midland City subway British Rail gates were unlocked by a British Rail cleaner. An injured passenger was evacuated to hospital by that route.

21:11. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Albert Kennedy gave the order: "Make pumps 30".

21:48. Fire Brigade reported: "Fire surrounded".

21:54. Reported that "Fires are being damped down but are not out".

01:46. London Fire Brigade "Stop" message was sent, indicating that the fire had been contained.

Claims of arson 'without basis'

Claims that the fire might have been started deliberately are categorically dismissed. In an appendix to his report, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, says that the evidence "failed to demonstrate any basis for an allegation of arson".

The arson theory was promoted widely by London Regional Transport and some newspapers, so Mr Fennell examines it in detail. He says: "The speed and extent of the fire was such that the police pressed the scene to investigate the possibility of arson. Enquiries were led by Det Supt Anthony Clift of the British Transport Police. He invited Mr David Halliday, a fire investigator at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory, to examine the scene and within two days Mr Halliday had reached the preliminary conclusion that there was no evidence to suggest that the fire had been started deliberately. Police inquiries continued but no evidence of arson came to light."

"London Underground indicated at the start of the investigation that they remained concerned about the possibility of arson. It was suggested that evidence about a 'man in blue overalls' seen at the entrance to the Piccadilly Line escalator might give a clue to the culprit."

Mr Halliday expressed the confident view that this was not a case of arson "because among other reasons:

- there was no evidence found at the scene to support the arson suggestion;
- there was no evidence of the use of an accelerant;

The running tracks beneath the 48-year-old escalator on which the King's Cross fire started had never been cleaned completely. Mr Fennell says build up of dirt beneath the escalator for providing a "seed bed" for fire.

The report says that, until last November there had been no deaths as a result of escalator fires, although some people had suffered smoke inhalation, serious enough to be taken to hospital. The statistics indicate that 45 per cent of these fires and smolderings occurred on "MH" escalators, which were particularly prone to fires on their running tracks. These fires were usually caused by smokers' materials falling down between the treads and skirting board and igniting grease and detritus on the running track.

The danger was not recognized, says the report, and when the November 18 fire started, the best means of extinguishing it — the water fog system — was not used.

● the accumulation of grease and detritus which formed the fire bed under the escalator was difficult to see and its inflammable qualities were not widely known even within London Underground;

● access to the machine room was difficult;

● access to the escalator running track was difficult and physically dangerous.

He concluded that it was "overwhelmingly likely" that the fire had been caused by discarded smokers' materials.

The evidence about the "man in the blue overalls" came from three eye witnesses. Mr Fennell says: "Each witness was attempting to help the court and give a true account of what he had seen. But the fact is that each witness had had only a fleeting glance so that their evidence was of limited value."

Mr Fennell says: "The remainder of the evidence also militated against the theory, about arson. Mr Noel Dwyer, a fitter's mate employed by London Underground, spoke of the danger of walking up the access way between moving escalators, and the same point was made by Mr Herbert, a station inspector employed at King's Cross Underground station. It is difficult to see why an arsonist should want to start a fire half way up the escalator when he could more easily have done so in the detritus lower down."

"Furthermore, the point at which the fire began would have exposed any arsonist to physical danger which he could easily have avoided by choosing a more accessible point which was better lit."

"While the hearing was in progress, London Regional Transport carried out trials at Green Park station one night about midnight, to test aspects of the arson theory."

"It is a matter of regret that the police should not have been invited to attend these trials."

"In my view the totality of this evidence failed to demonstrate any basis for an allegation of arson."

Recommendations

The report makes a series of recommendations to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster.

- The running tracks beneath the 48-year-old escalator on which the King's Cross fire started had never been cleaned completely. Mr Fennell says build up of dirt beneath the escalator for providing a "seed bed" for fire.

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● access to the machine room was difficult;

● access to the escalator running track was difficult and physically dangerous.

He concluded that it was "overwhelmingly likely" that the fire had been caused by discarded smokers' materials.

The evidence about the "man in the blue overalls" came from three eye witnesses. Mr Fennell says: "Each witness was attempting to help the court and give a true account of what he had seen. But the fact is that each witness had had only a fleeting glance so that their evidence was of limited value."

Mr Fennell says: "The remainder of the evidence also militated against the theory, about arson. Mr Noel Dwyer, a fitter's mate employed by London Underground, spoke of the danger of walking up the access way between moving escalators, and the same point was made by Mr Herbert, a station inspector employed at King's Cross Underground station. It is difficult to see why an arsonist should want to start a fire half way up the escalator when he could more easily have done so in the detritus lower down."

"Furthermore, the point at which the fire began would have exposed any arsonist to physical danger which he could easily have avoided by choosing a more accessible point which was better lit."

"While the hearing was in progress, London Regional Transport carried out trials at Green Park station one night about midnight, to test aspects of the arson theory."

"It is a matter of regret that the police should not have been invited to attend these trials."

"In my view the totality of this evidence failed to demonstrate any basis for an allegation of arson."

The report makes a series of recommendations to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster.

- The running tracks beneath the 48-year-old escalator on which the King's Cross fire started had never been cleaned completely. Mr Fennell says build up of dirt beneath the escalator for providing a "seed bed" for fire.

The report says that, until last November there had been no deaths as a result of escalator fires, although some people had suffered smoke inhalation, serious enough to be taken to hospital. The statistics indicate that 45 per cent of these fires and smolderings occurred on "MH" escalators, which were particularly prone to fires on their running tracks. These fires were usually caused by smokers' materials falling down between the treads and skirting board and igniting grease and detritus on the running track.

The danger was not recognized, says the report, and when the November 18 fire started, the best means of extinguishing it — the water fog system — was not used.

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How Underground workers and emergency services responded to the blaze

Staff were told not to call for help unless fires became out of control

Commenting on the response of London Underground's operating staff, Mr Fennell says:

In my view the response of the London Underground operating staff has to be viewed against the background of four critical points:

- They had not been adequately trained;
- There was no plan for evacuation of the station;
- Communications equipment was poor or not used;
- There was no supervision.

In these circumstances the operating staff had to do the best they could. It was fortunate that the British Transport Police officers were nearby and were able to take control.

Two other points ought to be borne in mind: the London Underground rulebook required staff to deal themselves with any outbreak of fire wherever possible and only to send for the London Fire Brigade when the fire was beyond their control.

And it is apparent that the outbreak of fire was not regarded as something unusual; indeed it was regarded by senior management as inevitable with a system of this age.

This attitude was no doubt increased by the insistence of London Underground management that a fire should ever be referred to as a fire but by the euphemism "smouldering." London Underground have now agreed to stop using



Christopher Hayes: Lacked training and experience

the word smouldering and have agreed that the London Fire Brigade should be summoned immediately there is any suggestion of fire.

About 15 minutes before the fire on the Piccadilly Line escalator was observed, a railwayman was told by a passenger of some burning tissue at the bottom of the Victoria Line escalator. He went down and extinguished the tissue by banging it with a magazine.

Mr Fennell says the railwayman acted properly and in accordance with the rule book. Of Relief Station Inspector Christopher Hayes, Mr Fennell says he was unprepared by training and experience to take charge of the incident. His failure to notify the station manager or line controller as soon as he received a report of a fire or to operate the water fog equipment were serious omissions



Joseph Worrell: Twelve minutes before he was told which may have contributed to the disaster

None of those who were concerned with evacuating passengers by way of the Victoria Line escalators up the tube lines ticket hall could be blamed for the action they took.

The senior man at King's Cross Station when the fire erupted was Mr Joseph Worrell, but his office was in an area remote from the fire, and 12 minutes elapsed from the time when the fire was first reported to a member of the London Underground staff until Mr Worrell was told.

Mr Fennell commends Station Inspector David Dhanpersaud, who went to the ticket hall at the top of the escalators where the fire was and switched off the circuit breakers, isolating the electricity supply to all five escalators.

He then went below ground and assisted in the clearing of the station platforms and en-

sured that Northern Line trains were passing through without stopping and rendered other assistance to firemen and police officers. Mr Fennell comments that he acted with considerable presence of mind and did a great deal that night to try to achieve the safety of those in the station.

It is apparent from all the evidence which was given at the investigation that the London Underground staff at King's Cross station that night were woefully ill-equipped to meet the emergency that arose.

Those on duty did the best they could using their common sense in the absence of training and supervision. Had the water fog equipment been used there is reason to think that the progress of the fire would have been delayed and the London Fire Brigade might have been able to deal with it.

In fact, not a drop of water was applied to the fire nor any fire extinguishers used by the London Underground staff.

There was no effective communication between those present on either side of the station and those outside, and several opportunities for the exchange of vital information between London Underground and London Fire Brigade personnel were lost. There was also uncertainty over which of the London Underground staff was in charge.

Mr Fennell says that in all probability he had been trying to assist another victim when he was overcome.

The flashover divided the Underground into two worlds, each believing it had lost touch with the other. Those on the surface believed that those beneath were trapped or probably dead: those beneath had no idea what was happening above.

The Brigade had no information as to what was going on down below and did not attempt to obtain it from London Underground. In addition they had no information as to the precise layout of the underground station, and no assistance from London Underground until 21:15.

Had Temporary Sub-Officer Bell and Station Officer Osborne taken with them their personal radios, communications between them and those at the top of the escalator might have remained open.

Although the occupier of property should invariably provide a guide to meet the Fire Brigade on arrival, where such a guide is not provided and the Fire Brigade have no detailed knowledge of the geography, it is their duty to obtain details forthwith.

We are concerned that on the night, Fire Brigade did not seek out an official of London Underground to obtain details of the complicated layout of the Underground station.

Regarding the death of Station Officer Townsley, Mr

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Tragedy for 'blameless police'

One of the most tragic aspects of the fire was that British Transport policemen, in directing passengers to find their escape up the escalators from the Victoria Line, were in fact leading some of them to their deaths when the flashover occurred in the ticket hall.

The report says that in the absence of any London Underground supervisors and an evacuation plan, the Transport police assumed the initiative. None of the officers initially concerned had direct experience of the Underground.

They used common sense and initiative to devise a plan, which was to divert passengers away from the Piccadilly Line escalator, to evacuate the station and prevent trains from stopping.

No blame should be attached to the officers. They were simply seeking to divert passengers away from the Piccadilly Line escalator which was on fire and to send them to the surface by way of the Victoria Line escalator which they believed would be safe. They could not foresee, nor could anybody foresee the flashover.

One of the clear lessons for the Transport Police is the need for training in evacuation, communication, fire-fighting and incident control procedures as they apply to underground stations.

The hours of manning of station operations rooms and aims to have continuous manning during traffic hours at the 18 most complex stations by April 1989. It also intends to provide operations rooms at 13 further major stations, and to review the location of existing station operations rooms which are not at ticket hall level.

"I recommend that a properly located and equipped station operations room must be provided at King's Cross, that the improved manning of station operations rooms must be quickly achieved and that the London Fire Brigade and the British Transport Police must be consulted."

Turning to the staff, Mr Fennell says: "It is clear that the station staff, several of whom had a good knowledge of the communications equipment available, failed to make use of it. They did not call the fire brigade upon discovery of the fire, inform the station manager or the line

controller promptly, nor use the platform public address system.

"It is remarkable that no use whatever was made of the public address system at King's Cross throughout the fire and evacuations."

The report continues: "There was unacceptable delay in passing on and carrying out the police request that trains should non-stop. In the later stages of the incident no one in the station telephoned London Underground staff and emergency services on the surface."

"All telephone points in stations should be prominently signposted, and provided with a list of key telephone numbers."

The report also recommends the provision of "help points" where passengers can sound an alarm and public telephones on platforms. "The only means of communication for staff at King's Cross on November 18, was the telephone or word of mouth."

Brigade failed to get station lay-out

The fire at King's Cross presented the London Fire Brigade with four problems, says the report:

- They were not called immediately;
- The crews attending had no detailed knowledge of the geography or station layout;
- The flashover occurred within two minutes of their first arrivals in the tube lines ticket hall;
- The officer in charge of the first appliance was killed and the officers in charge of two of the other appliances were cut off below ground. Thereafter communications broke down.

The London Fire Brigade was summoned to King's Cross Underground station at 19:34 and the first fire appliance arrived at 19:42. It will remain a matter of conjecture what would have happened if the Brigade had been summoned to deal with the burning tissue at the bottom of the Victoria Line escalator which was extinguished by Leading Railman Brickell at about 19:15.

THE KING'S CROSS INQUIRY

Tube chiefs failed to take safety advice

SPECIAL PRAISE FOR THE MEN OF COURAGE WHO SAVED OTHERS



Two people were singled out for special mention in the report: station officer Colin Townsley, the fireman who died in the blaze, and PC Stephen Hanson, whose hands melted as he

stayed behind to help victims. Mr Fennell said: "Station officer Townsley died a hero's death. PC Hanson's presence of mind and courage must have enabled many

people to escape with their lives." In the text of the report British Transport PC Terry Rebbington is praised for showing "considerable courage" in helping firemen tackle the blaze. It

also commends station inspector David Dhanpansand. "He acted with considerable presence of mind and did a great deal to try to achieve the safety of those in the station."

Lack of a proper safety programme on the London Underground attracts some of the most biting criticisms in the Fennell report. The QC says that "London Underground was lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that no previous escalator fire had caused a death."

He calls on the company to institute a managed safety programme, with a system of safety audit by London Regional Transport to inform all concerned of the state of safety.

In his report Mr Fennell says: "The approach of London Underground to passenger safety as revealed in the investigation was reactive. Their reaction to earlier fires and warnings was imperfect, as may be seen from the recurring recommendations made after internal inquiries into fires."

There was no system in place to ensure that the findings and recommendations of such inquiries were properly considered at the appropriate level. With the exception of the Oxford Circus station fire in 1984, there was not sufficient interest at the highest level in the inquiries. There was no incentive for those conducting them to pursue their findings or recommendations, or by others to translate them into action.

"Many of the shortcomings in the physical and human state of affairs at King's Cross on November 18, 1987, had in fact been identified before by the internal inquiries into escalator fires. They were also highlighted in reports by the fire brigade, police, and Railway Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Standards Committee. The many recommendations had not been adequately considered by senior managers and there was no way to ensure they were circulated, considered and acted upon."

"London Underground's failure to carry through the proposals resulting from earlier fires — such as the provision of automatic sprinklers, the need to ensure all fire equipment was correctly positioned and serviceable, identification of alternative means of escape, and the need to train staff to react properly and positively in emergencies — was a failure which I believe contributed to the disaster at King's Cross."

"This attitude was underlined during the investigation when the directors of London Underground were asked in turn whether they would have acted differently if they had had in their possession the information on escalator fires between 1973 and 1987 that was brought together in a single file for the investigation. They were all clear they would not have taken much different action, in part because they were confident that passengers could always be evacuated in time."

London Underground had "a blind spot over the hazard of fire on escalators in the stations". Mr Fennell says: "No one person was charged with overall responsibility for safety. Each director believed he was responsible for safety in his division, but that it covered principally the safety of staff. The operations director, who was responsible for the safe operation of the system, did not believe he was responsible for the safety of lifts and escalators which came within the engineering director's department. Specialist safety staff were mainly in junior positions and concerned solely with safety of staff."

He adds: "No one in London Underground, either in recent years or for generations past, had foreseen that a fire starting on a wooden escalator could develop at a speed or with a ferocity which

would endanger passengers."

"While there had been some escalator fires in the past which had caused severe smoke, no passengers had ever been burned, and the true danger of smoke to people had never been foreseen."

"It was solely considerations of damage to escalators and disruption to services and not of danger to passenger safety which had dictated the action or lack of action by London Underground management."

"To be justified in holding such a view, senior management would have had to be certain that there were in place the measures necessary to eliminate the risk of escalator fire developing and spreading. The operations director, Mr William Clarke, said he was satisfied on the basis of his

personal knowledge and experience that there were adequate means of speedy detection of fires in stations, by means of the noses and eyes of staff and passengers. He believed that water fog equipment and fire extinguishers afforded adequate means to extinguish or control fires. The fire brigade could, if necessary, be called and could be relied upon to arrive quickly. Moreover there were adequate procedures and time to close off escalators and divert or evacuate passengers."

"However, the evidence of the documents produced by London Underground and the evidence of their witnesses showed that London Underground was not justified in making such unqualified assumptions. Staff training in the use of fire extinguishers and

water fog equipment was inadequate and likely to have been very stale. There was no system in place to instill into station staff a sense of urgency and confidence in tackling fire. The value of automatic fire detection equipment was not properly appreciated and it had not been installed."

"The experience of earlier escalator fires was that the fire brigade was not always promptly summoned or properly met upon arrival. Exposure to smoke itself was not recognised to be dangerous. Above all proper recognition was not given to the unpredictable nature of fire."

There was no effective control of King's Cross station by London Underground supervisors or staff before the disaster. While the actions of

individuals at the time were understandable, and in several cases involved presence of mind and courage, their overall response may be characterized as unco-ordinated, haphazard and untrained."

"The decision to evacuate passengers and to order trains not to stop was taken by the British Transport Police, who effectively assumed responsibility for station control. The station manager was in an office which had been removed despite his objection to a location remote from the tube side of the station, and he was not informed of the emergency until 12 minutes after the first report of fire. By that time it was too late for him to play an effective part in evacuation or fire-fighting. More importantly, the training and instruction the super-

visory staff had received was wholly inadequate."

"London Underground's practice for many years had been to provide initial training for all new recruits, and further formal training when required by staff selected for promotion to prepare them for their new responsibilities. Following the Oxford Circus station fire a programme of two-day refresher courses for station supervisors was run. Other station staff were not similarly trained."

"Statements made by the staff on duty at King's Cross on November 18 indicated that they had little recollection of training in emergency procedures; indeed for most it was so remote that they had forgotten about it. Only four out of the 21 staff on duty said that they had had any training

in evacuation or fire drills. "It is accepted by London Underground that, at least until 1987, the quality of staff training as its White City railway training centre had been inadequate. The method of instruction had remained unchanged for many years, consisting largely of laborious note-taking and question and answer sessions."

Mr Fennell criticizes the way London Underground has responded to the disaster by drawing up a list of 101 actions to improve safety. "Such a checklist approach to earlier fires manifestly failed to address the root problems or to elicit the necessary action within London Underground," he says. "What is required is an active programme of safety measures under continuous review in the light of the best possible advice."

He calls on London Underground to establish a managed safety programme as a matter of priority. "In a managed safety programme senior management would be able to judge the progress being made in achieving their goals."

"At lower management level, a disciplined system should be applied to safety management to carry through the agreed objectives. Designated operating staff would be responsible for regular inspections of their own facilities, and the system would be monitored by periodic checks."

The report says: "The single most important need is for better training of staff. The intuitive reaction of station staff in emergencies will depend to a large extent upon the quality of training and practice they have received."

Among his recommendations are the appointment of station "landlords" with total responsibility for a management of a major station or a group of smaller stations.

Recommendations for urgent action

The Fennell report makes 157 recommendations to improve safety on the London Underground. The most important — which it says should be implemented without delay — are:

- The recommendations of internal inquiries into accidents must be considered at director level.
- Trade union participation in internal inquiries shall be encouraged.
- London Underground shall regularly examine fire equipment and ensure that defects are reported and remedied at once or alternative arrangements made.
- The annual fire brigade inspection of Underground stations and tunnels shall continue, and unsatisfactory features must be remedied and reported on within six weeks. Copies of the reports shall be sent to the Chief Safety Inspector and Railway Inspectorate and arrangements shall be made by London Underground to publish the reports.
- Keys must always be available for unattended locked gates at station exits. There shall be communication equipment or remote monitoring equipment at these gates.
- Locked emergency gates shall be fitted with alarmed panic bars.
- Station ventilation systems must be checked to ensure that contaminated air cannot be introduced into the rooms they serve. Instructions must be issued on any action to be taken in the event of a fire.
- London Underground shall maintain a formal system for health and safety monitoring at all levels of management.
- A non-executive director with special responsibility for safety shall be appointed to the London Underground board. He shall have direct access to the Chairman of London Regional Transport.

audit. The board shall receive reports on such audit.

- Station operations rooms shall always be adequately staffed by suitably trained personnel.
- London Underground shall establish a programme of continuing instruction at work by supervisors for station staff in fire and safety with the assistance of the fire brigade and British Transport Police. At stations equipped with



Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, 157 recommendations.

- LRT shall establish a system whereby the safety of operation of London Underground can be the subject of water fog equipment supervisors must be given practical training during the regular testing of the equipment.
- Every two years, all management and supervisory staff shall receive refresher training in controlling station emergencies, and the use of fire and communications equipment.
- Every six months, fire and safety training must be provided for non-supervisory staff and booking clerks. Staff must be given site familiarization training before they are

permitted to take part in the running of the station. Specific provision shall be made for the instruction of staff in shops and other premises in Underground stations.

- Instructions to staff on calling of the fire brigade shall be re-drafted in plain English.
- Fire safety training for cleaning and engineering staff working on stations shall be provided. London Underground must obtain expert advice.

- All messages received or made by HQ and line controllers must be timed and recorded with an effective retrieval system. A telephone system incorporating the most up-to-date facilities shall also be provided, as should data and video transmission equipment.
- Station instructions for emergencies and closure must be agreed with the fire brigade and used in training station staff.
- Fire hydrants and cabinets must be marked with out-rigger signs.
- A rendezvous point for the emergency services and a staff assembly point at each station must be agreed and marked.
- Station evacuation plans should include evacuation by train.

- All escalator trusses shall be fitted with linear heat detectors and machine rooms with smoke detectors. Priority should be given to escalators with wooden components and consideration given to moving the water fog valves to a protected location outside the machine room. The eventual aim should be for the detection equipment to activate an alarm system, automatic sprinklers or water fog equipment where suitable.
- A replacement programme of six or more escalator renewals per year shall be established. Escalator design shall be reviewed to allow easier

and more effective cleaning.

- The wooden skirting boards and balustrade, decking and advertisement panels of all escalators must be replaced with metal by July 1989.
- The quality and scope of public address equipment must be improved. It shall cover a wider area of stations.
- The radio equipment in underground stations for the British Transport Police must be made compatible with that used by the fire brigade.

- London Underground shall regularly inspect communications equipment. Where it is out of order it must be clearly labelled and immediately reported for repair.
- The law on fire certification as it relates to Underground stations is in a state of uncertainty. Steps should be taken to resolve the position.
- The Railway Inspectorate must be brought up to establishment to carry out its responsibilities under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.
- The inspectorate must be more vigorous in the discharge of its duties on London Underground.
- London Underground shall review its proposals for the working of the Underground Ticketing System (UTS) and take advice from the Railway Inspectorate and the fire brigade.

- London Underground and London Regional Transport shall make regular reports to the Secretary for Transport upon their progress with the implementation of those recommendations directed at them.
- Reports on the progress made by London Underground shall also be included in the annual reports of London Regional Transport, the London Regional Passenger Committee and the Railway Inspectorate.

Rail inspectorate's relaxed approach

The Department of Transport's Railway Inspectorate is criticized for failing to make full use of its powers or devoting sufficient resources to London Underground to create the tension necessary to ensure safety. Mr Fennell says: "Their misunderstanding of the duties imposed by section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 led them to take a more relaxed approach with London Underground than they would otherwise have done."

"I believe their general relationship with London Underground lacked the creative tension necessary to instil

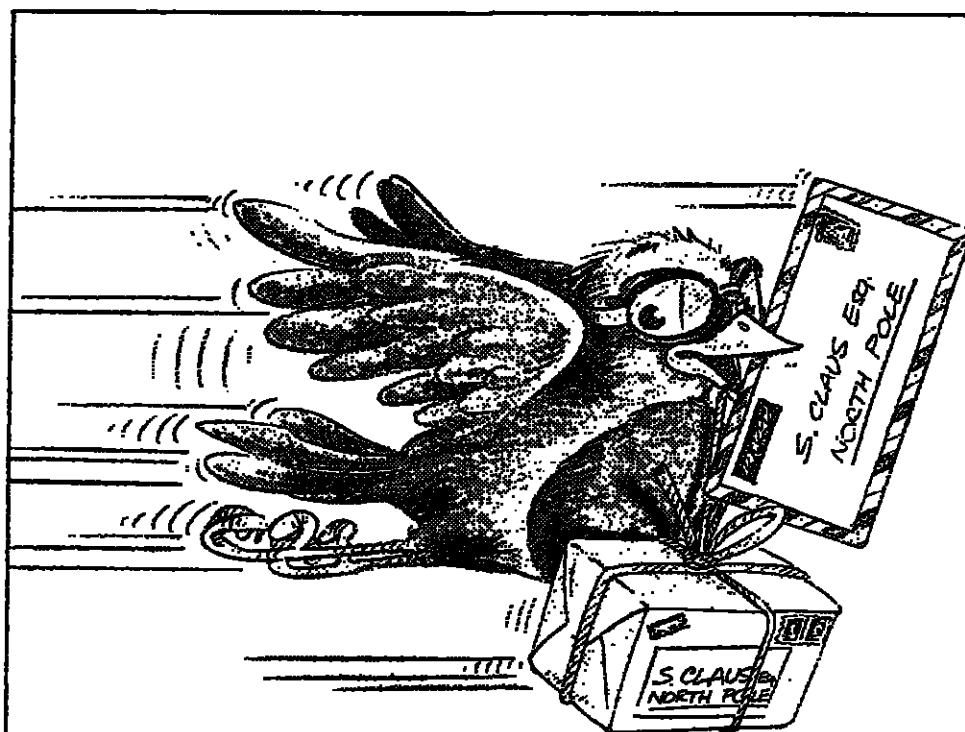
discipline and produce prompt results within the organization."

"A more vigorous use of enforcement powers would probably have alerted London Underground senior management to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in stations sooner, and produced general improvements in housekeeping standards."

"The degree of liaison and co-operation with the London Fire Brigade was insufficient, and the decision to stop receiving copies of fire inspection reports was wrong."

He recommends that the inspectorate must be brought up to establishment, adopt a more vigorous enforcement policy, and do more to keep the management systems of London Underground under review.

On the case for a national disaster plan, Mr Fennell says: "It is unsatisfactory that those coping with the consequences of major disasters should very often have to start from scratch, and that the lessons to be learned from earlier accidents involving deaths and injuries should not be as widely disseminated as possible."



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Families consider private prosecution

By David Cross

Mr Ian Walker, the solicitor who represented the families of 29 of those who died at the inquiry, said that they might now take out a private manslaughter prosecution against London Underground.

Relatives would study the report's conclusions to see whether further court action was possible. "Inevitably the spectre of a private prosecution looms," he said.

He was concerned that the report had not tackled the problem of the "defective and complicated" management structure of London Regional Transport. "I would have hoped for some concrete recommendations to change this," he said. "Unless important changes are made I fear that many of the very good recommendations in the report may not be implemented."

He was, however, "very pleased" to see strict time limits imposed for introducing such changes as replacing wooden components on escalators and other practical steps to improve fire safety. "If these are all carried out efficiently and

speedily the Underground will be a very much safer place to travel on," he said.

Another drawback was the failure of the report to improve the relationship between the Railway Inspectorate and LRT. "We have always felt that this has been too cosy and there is nothing in the recommendations to make the inspectorate more independent and strong."

On the other hand he was very pleased to see that Mr Fennell had recommended a review of the Underground ticketing system.

Mr Walker said that the families of those who died and the injured would welcome the resignation of Dr Tony Ridley, chairman of London Underground, and Sir Keith Bright, chairman of LRT. "I interpret this as public acceptance of their share of responsibility in the failings of their organization on the night of the fire," he said.

He did not expect yesterday's report to affect the overall level of compensation which relatives or the injured might receive. Only one compensation pay-out of about £10,000 has been won so far and that was expected to reflect the sort of money other claimants could expect.

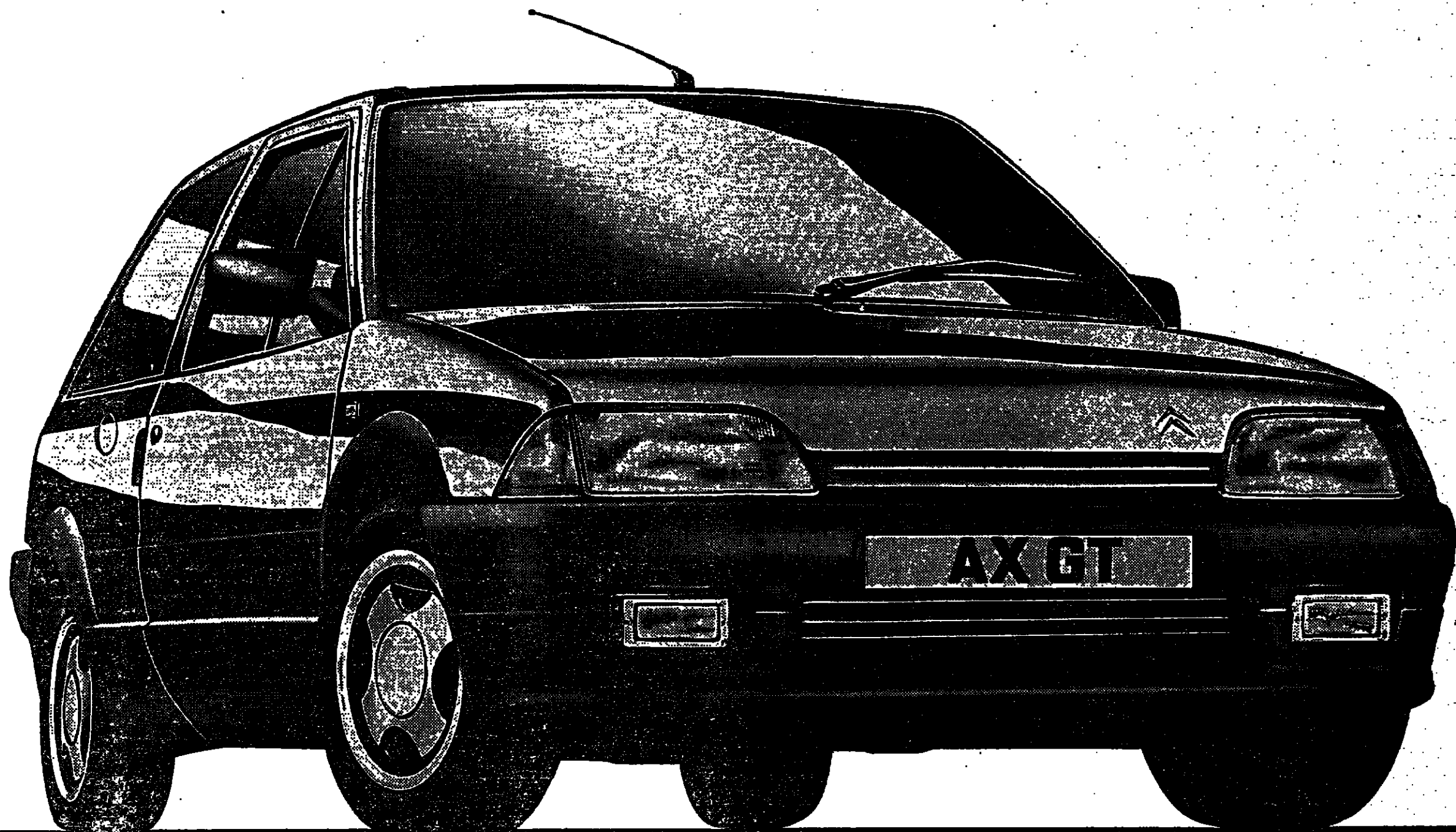
Several more months of negotiations would be required.

Five of the families who lost relatives in the fire said last night that they were relieved that the report had now been published. "It has been a frustrating 12 months where everyone seemed to be washing their hands of the whole business," Miss Sophie Tarasenko, who lost her brother, Ivan, said. "We are glad the report names names and we think it was right for Sir Keith and Dr Ridley to resign."

She added: "The report has been thorough as an investigation but we think the Department of Transport should now take it further and we will be pressing them to do so. It has got to go further for the sake of every person who travels on the underground. There needs to be new laws to tighten up safety, tougher penalties if laws are broken and stations that don't meet safety standards should be closed."

The families face what they call "a legal quagmire" over compensation, have all been offered a lump sum of £7,500 but are not happy with it.

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General Synod

Move from Church House is reversed at a cost of £3.75m

By Allan Wood

Mistakes, misjudgements and misinformation were admitted by the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday when it decided not to move out of Church House, Westminster.

That reversal of last February's decision to move to offices in nearby Millbank, Commissioners, will cost an estimated £2.5 million (from the sale of Church House) plus £1.25 million already spent at Millbank. It came after a long debate and was by 241 votes to 208 with 8 abstentions.

It means the church will not lose forever the Church House site, home of its administrative staff and the place where it meets twice a year.

The motion called on the main steering committee of the church, the Corporation of Church House, the Church Commissioners and the Central Board of Finance to make arrangements for continued occupation and to accept any financial consequences, which include £1.25 million spent on refurbishing the Millbank offices.

The Synod decision went against advice from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Sir Douglas Lovelock, First Church Estates Commissioner and Chairman of the Central Board of Finance. He said that besides the money wasted at Millbank, staying put would

cost an estimated £2.5 million (the full value of Church House), which would itself need extensive refurbishment.

That mixture would cost nearly £1 million a year and it would be unreasonable to inflict that on the parishes. He was also against the Church spending £30 million or so on a new prestige Church House.

The Synod then asked the Church Commissioners and Pensions Board to consider whether their staff could eventually move into Church House. The Corporation of Church House was also asked to bring before Synod plans to remodel or partially rebuild Church House to enable all three bodies to be housed there by 2000.

Two women strongly influenced the debate. Dr Christina Baxter, builder's daughter and merchant banker's sister, who chaired the group reviewing the decision to move out, successfully moved the motion. She warned that a move to Millbank would foreclose all options.

"Remaining in Church House gives us the chance to get the right decision at the end of the century", she said. They could not decant to Millbank and then move back.

Mrs Audrey Moss from Wigan, representing Liverpool diocese, said the Church might make itself vulnerable by staying put but that they

should do it. She was against any sale of the Church House site. She said cathedrals occupied prime sites.

Should they be sold to bring a Disneyland to every diocese? Everything costs money and what they wanted to do would do so.

Because it was 50 years old Church House needed some restoration. She was not surprised. To loud laughter she said: "I do a paint job on myself every morning".

She saw no reason why parishes should have to pick up the tag of £1.25 million.

● The church should be at the front in caring for the victims of child abuse, the Synod was urged yesterday (Clifford Longley writes).

Moving a resolution calling for proper training for those in the church likely to come across cases of child abuse, Mr Roger Godin, of Southwark diocese, said that even "right here in our midst" there were likely to be "broken and battered people who desperately need help".

He quoted from numerous letters he had received from victims of abuse, and said reading them had often reduced him to tears.

"What are we able to do for those who are being abused at the moment, and for those who might be abused if we take no action?" he said. The debate was adjourned until today.

A giant gift of French wine



M. Albert Roux, of Le Gavroche restaurant in central London, receiving yesterday a nebuchadnezzar of the wine named after him and presented by M. Michel Laroche, of Domaine Laroche, the Chablis producers, to mark their association. It will be auctioned for the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Young People (Photograph: Adrian Brooks).

Children read better when parents help

By David Tytler
Education Editor

Children's reading ability improves at three times the normal rate if parents help them, according to research to be published today.

A simple teaching technique, which has been working in Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire, since January 1984, allows children to take home a book of their choice which they read aloud with a helper, usually a parent, for about 10 minutes five times a week. If the child gets into difficulty the helper says the word correctly without criticism.

A survey of 2,750 children aged from five to 13 who followed a programme of "paired reading" shows that after eight to nine weeks' help from parents or more able pupils, reading accuracy improved by 3.5 times the normal rate while the reading age improved by 6.9 months. Improvements in comprehension were even greater, with a 4.4 improvement on normal rates and a reading age increase of 9.2 months.

The survey, reported in this week's *The Times Educational Supplement* shows that children from deprived areas gained more than more advantaged children, and that boys - often reluctant readers - improved more than girls.

Mr Keith Topping, a psychologist who is founding director of the project, said: "It has been a huge success. It has helped those parents who were already assisting their children to be more effective and has encouraged others who feared they might upset the teachers."

Full details of the survey

Teachers have voted to remain in local authority control at Audenshaw High School, Greater Manchester, where the parents will begin holding an opt-out ballot on Monday.

Twenty-six of the 48 teachers said they would prefer the school to remain in the control of Tameside council although that could lead to a merger. Ten teachers were in favour of opting out, while 12 expressed no preference.

Mr Peter Goode, of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "We think it is a shame that the Parents Action Committee who are in favour of opting-out have not considered the views of the staff."

will be given at a conference of teachers today. Mr Topping believes the scheme will spread across the country. He said: "Some teachers used to object to parents helping their children, a few still do, but the pendulum is swinging the other way."

● English lessons and attainment tests to be followed in the national curriculum are to be published next week. The English working group has told Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, that 11-year-olds should be able to write a letter with paragraphs and proper punctuation.

The report has been welcomed by the Government but some ministers still think that there is insufficient emphasis on the traditional teaching of spelling tests and learning poetry by heart.

Townsend medals sold to Canadian

Group Captain Peter Townsend's Battle of Britain medals sold respectably, but not sensationally, for £22,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday, to a Canadian collector who bid anonymously on the telephone.

The proceeds will go towards a trust fund that Group Captain Townsend, now 73, is setting up to help children who have suffered in war.

Sir Alexander Fleming's Nobel Prize group, the other great draw for the sale, was withdrawn, after an injunction by Dr Robert Fleming, his son, who claims part-ownership.

Strictly, the highest price of all - £33,000 - was invalid, as the transaction was made after the auction.

It was for the "Midget Submarine" medal group awarded to Lieutenant-Commander Ian Fraser, after he painstakingly directed his submarine along the seabed in 1945 before attaching limpet mines to the Japanese heavy cruiser, Takao, at her moorings in Johore Strait, Singapore. During the auction, bids

stopped at £24,000, well below the estimate.

Jasper Johns defended his place as the world's most expensive artist, at Christie's in New York on Wednesday night and, indeed, improved his previous record by a cool \$2 million to \$7 million (£3.9 million).

The painting, entitled "White Flag", was bought by Mr Hans Thulin, a Swedish financier, who was in the news as a big spender last summer when he paid £1.6 million for a 1936 Mercedes Benz roadster.

Afterwards Mr Thulin said: "This is a very exceptional acquisition. You can never pay too much for quality." As a subject, the American flag is Johns' favourite, having been inspired originally by a dream in which the artist watched himself painting one.

Getty acquisitions, page 34

Weekend food prices

Imported giant prawns are an expensive buy

Fresh uncooked "tiger" prawns from the east coast of Africa and from Goa in western India are available at fishmongers.

The largest ones can weigh about 10 or 11 oz and the smallest ones are 2 oz each. At about £8.95 a lb they are of course a luxury.

Shark is available from £3.50 a lb and frozen swordfish from £3.75. Fresh swordfish could be £2 a lb more.

Fresh fish from home waters are excellent and plentiful in spite of gales. Cod fillets could be as little as £1.60 a lb but best Scarborough cod is likely to be £2.45 and haddock about £2.70 in the London area. Huss is a much underrated fish at £1.40 a lb.

Many cuts of home-produced beef are down in price. Boneless roasting sirloin, sirloin steak, rump steak and best mince are all considerably cheaper, particularly in the South-east. However stewing, braising and fillet steak are fractionally more expensive.

Home-produced lamb is on an upward trend, with all cuts up between 1p and 9p a lb although there are many promotional offers available. The average price of whole leg is £1.84 in the South-east and £1.76 in the rest of England and Wales.

Meat and poultry promotional offers include Sainsbury's home-produced lamb leg at £1.28 a lb, topside, top rump and silverside £1.98. Presto home-produced leg of lamb £1.44, whole shoulder 74p and loin chops £1.68.

There are four varieties of apples which are widely available, namely Spartans, Katys, Coxes, and Russets, ranging in price from 30p to 55p a lb.

Supplies of citrus fruits are building up with oranges 8p to 25p each, grapefruit 20p to 45p each and satsumas at 35p to 55p a lb.

Home-grown green vegetables in good supply are cabbages at 14p to 30p a lb, brussels sprouts at 15p to 30p and cauliflowers at 35p to 65p.

Film role for hacker

By Andrew Moger

The unemployed computer hacker who broke into sensitive defence files in Britain and the United States has penetrated the world of showbusiness and films.

After three years invested in overcoming the electronic security systems of organizations such as the Ministry of Defence and the US Nuclear Defence Agency, Mr Edward Austin, aged 23, has moved into more legitimate fields and added a film contract to his file of secret data.

He has been signed up for a

feature film for cinema distribution, based on a science fiction book to be published next year, which portrays computer hackers later this century as they embark on a mission to take access to information out of the hands of a few.

So far Mr Austin, who is still under investigation by the American secret service and Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad, has agreed to act as technical adviser. But there is the chance he could also be given an actor's role.

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Bush charts course for his first 100 days in power

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As President-elect George Bush left for Florida for a brief, long-delayed holiday, called a Cabinet meeting to plan the transition of power.

Mr Reagan thanked Cabinet members for their support, and said he expected to receive their resignations by January 20 to give Mr Bush a free hand to pick his own team.

Mr Bush, who has said he will announce his Cabinet within two weeks, is expected to ask several senior figures, including Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury Secretary, to remain at their posts. All US ambassadors as well as political appointees in the civil service will be asked to resign.

President Reagan has expressed elation at the election result, regarding it as a mandate for the continuation of his own "Reagan revolution".

He said at a White House welcoming ceremony on Wednesday that Mr Bush had helped to make "our change now a permanent feature of American government", adding: "This is not the end of an era, but a time to refresh and strengthen our new beginning... You ain't seen nothing yet."

Briefing all Cabinet members yesterday morning, Mr Kenneth Duberstein, the White House Chief of Staff, began with a quip, saying: "This is not a hostile take-

over." He said he wanted to make this the smoothest transition ever, one marked by "sensitivity and dignity".

The exodus from the Reagan Administration has already started. Mr John Herrington, the Secretary of Energy, announced his resignation on Wednesday. Mr William Bradford Huelskamp, the controversial As-

clear hint that he will not be keeping many of the political appointees in the civil service, he announced that he would for the most part "bring in a brand new team".

His swift announcement that Mr James Baker, the architect of his victory, would be his Secretary of State, has drawn praise from Republicans and Democrats alike.

The vote count goes on in Florida

Full election results were still coming in yesterday with recounts being held in a number of close contests. In Florida, where only 3,000 votes separated the two Senate candidates, there were 100,000

absentee ballots still to be counted. According to the latest figures, Mr Connie Mack, a Republican, had a slight edge over his Democratic rival, but the result may not be known for a week.

Mr Baker is a familiar figure, highly regarded both in Congress and by political analysts. Senator Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat and an ardent critic of President Reagan's policies on Central America, yesterday called his selection "excellent", and a signal that the new President wanted to co-operate with Congress.

If this were so, Mr Bush would find Congress in its turn co-operative. "We've got a lot of serious problems on (the) deficit, both trade and fiscal, and major issues that have to be addressed in this country," he said.

One of Mr Baker's early

tasks will be to hold talks with the Soviet Union on a summit meeting, which both Mr Bush and President Gorbachev have said they would welcome.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, suggested in Moscow yesterday that a summit could be convened even before the presidential inauguration in January — an unusual step that would raise protocol questions and which Mr Bush himself ruled out on Wednesday.

No site has been suggested for a summit, but it is unlikely to be in Washington or Moscow, since it would be an informal consultation rather than an official visit. A neutral European capital would be the most likely venue.

In Indiana, the Governor will have to appoint a new senator to replace Senator Dan Quayle, the Vice-President-elect. There is a growing movement to name Mrs Marilyn Quayle for her husband's seat, and she has confirmed that she is considering the idea.

Such an offer would have to come soon. The retiring Governor is a Republican, but his successor, Mr Evan Bayh, is a Democrat, and may not wish to appoint Mrs Quayle.

Meanwhile, figures show that the election turn-out, at around 50 per cent, was the lowest since 1924.

Behind the Republican victory

By Robert Worcester

Prosperity and peace won votes

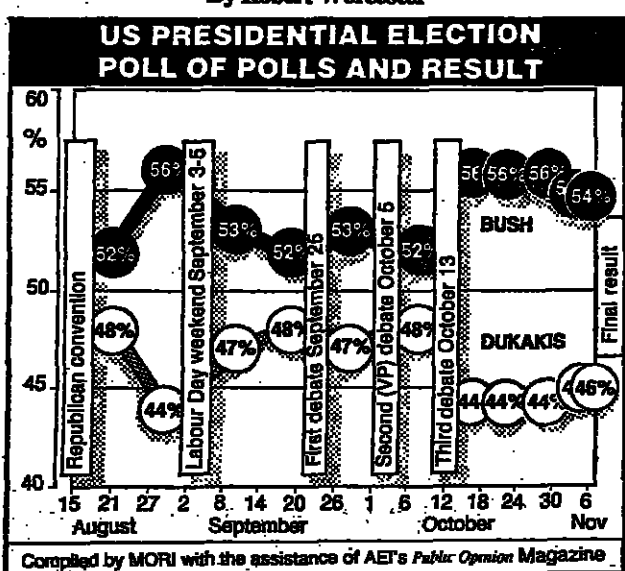
Peace and prosperity were the twin themes which gave President-elect Bush the winning margin in Tuesday's American election, according to the massive exit polls carried out by the networks as American voters left the polling booths.

Most people believe they have got it pretty good, and six in 10 of the voters who believe that the future of the American economy is bright — three in four — voted for Mr Bush.

The eve-of-poll opinion surveys confounded the politicians who forecast they would be wrong. Seven national polls reported on the last day or two of the campaign, and all were within the plus or minus 3 per cent margin of error they claim. The average of the polls, the basis of *The Times* Poll of Polls, was within half of 1 per cent of the final result.

The final turnout was once again barely over the 50 per cent mark, holding steady to the participation level of the past two elections. In fact, this is more a castigation of the disparate registration practices in the various US states rather than turnout per se, as 50 per cent turnout actually represents 85 per cent of those registered.

Earlier poll analysis suggested lukewarm support by blacks for the Democratic



candidate, resulting from the lack of importance in the campaign given to the Rev Jesse Jackson.

The ABC News exit poll, however, indicated that 10 per cent of those casting votes were black. Of those, nine in 10 voted for Mr Michael Dukakis, as did two thirds of Hispanics (4 per cent of the electorate) and three out of four of the Jewish voters, (3 per cent of the electorate overall but an estimated 15 per cent in New York State).

With all of the controversy attached to the "L" word

during the campaign — Mr Bush consistently described Mr Dukakis as the "liberal Governor of Massachusetts" — it was interesting to see that one in five of those who admitted to being "liberals", 21 per cent of the electorate, voted for Mr Bush. Twenty per cent of self-described "conservatives" voted for Mr Dukakis.

The experience factor was the major image attribute going for Mr Bush. No fewer than 93 per cent of Republican voters said Mr Bush "has the right kind of experience",

while only 6 per cent of Dukakis voters said this of their choice. Women would have put Mr Dukakis in the White House, but the margin of Bush support among men made the difference. There was a marginal difference by age, with the youngest voters preferring Mr Dukakis.

Four in 10 Reagan Democrats stuck with Mr Bush, while six in 10 returned to their usual party. The Eastern region of America narrowly preferred the Democrat, the rest of the country Mr Bush; those in urban areas Mr Dukakis; suburban and rural voters Mr Bush. But the basic split was between the "haves", who tended to support Mr Bush, and the "have-nots", who voted for Mr Dukakis.

Four Americans in 10 say the most important thing for the new Administration to tackle is the budget deficit.

Only 13 per cent of voters think the new President should press Congress to increase defence spending, contrasting sharply to 1981.

If there is any doubt about the power of the polls in America now, it must be noted that President-elect Bush has just named as head of his transition team his pollster, Mr Robert Teeter.

(Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI.)

Policy on Nicaragua

Contra aid seen as a costly priority

From Alan Tomlinson, Miami

President-elect George Bush has said that supporting the Contra rebels in Nicaragua will remain a high priority of his Administration, but the task of rescuing them from defeat will be a tough one.

Since they were denied military aid by Congress in February, the rebels have faded dramatically as a fighting force, and US and Central American officials tend to talk of them in the past tense.

Even their most fervent champion in Washington, Mr Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State, conceded recently that US policy towards Nicaragua has entered the "post-Contra era".

With Democrats now holding a firm majority in the Senate, many analysts believe it would be futile, if not foolhardy, for Mr Bush to go to Congress with a new request for military aid. His strong verbal support for the rebels notwithstanding, few analysts expect him to go to bat for the Contras with quite the same enthusiasm as did President Reagan.

Even pro-Contra lobbyists like Mr L. Francis Bonchey, president of the right-wing Council for Inter-American Security, will urge Mr Bush to strike out in a fresh direction. "The resistance is probably through as a fighting force though it will remain an important political element that will have to be dealt with," Mr Bonchey said. He believes the Bush Administration will opt for tough diplomatic initiatives without making concessions to the Government in Managua.

President Ortega of Nicaragua has appealed to Mr Bush to make a fresh start by opening negotiations over

their differences. The former Nicaraguan Ambassador to Washington, Señor Carlos Tomarman, praised the appointment of Mr James Baker as Secretary of State. "Baker is not an ideological fanatic, but well known for his pragmatism," he said.

However, analysts believe that if Mr Bush is willing to negotiate with the Nicaraguans, as Mr Reagan was not, he will want to do so from a position of strength. They say that could mean replacing Contra aid with tougher economic sanctions as the stick with which to try to beat the Sandinistas into submission.

What Mr Bush will perhaps be most anxious to avoid as one of his first jobs as President, is the bitter prospect of having to supervise the collapse of the Contra movement and the resettlement of the rebels as political refugees in Miami, which would draw galling comparisons with the defeat of the Cuban counter-revolution at the Bay of Pigs.

The disintegration of the rebel army has already begun, with deserters from their base camps in Honduras joining the flood of illegal Nicaraguan refugees into southern Florida.

The Honduran Government, whose quiet support of the Contras has been crucial to their viability, is calling for an international peacekeeping force to protect its borders as the Contras collapse.

But rebel leaders in Miami are refusing to accept military defeat. The Contra military chief, Señor Enrique Bermudez, said the movement would lobby senators, congressmen, Central American governments and Mr Bush's transition team for a renewal of weapons supplies.

Royal praise for Louvre's pyramid

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

You either love it or hate it, and after the Prince of Wales had cast a glance over the controversial glass pyramid in the Cour Napoleon at the Palais du Louvre, he seemed inclined to join the former camp.

"Very nice, very exciting," he could be heard to say above the clicking of a multitude of camera shutters eager to capture the expression on the face of the scourge of modern architecture as he viewed the futuristic creation of the celebrated Chinese-American, Mr I.M. Pei.

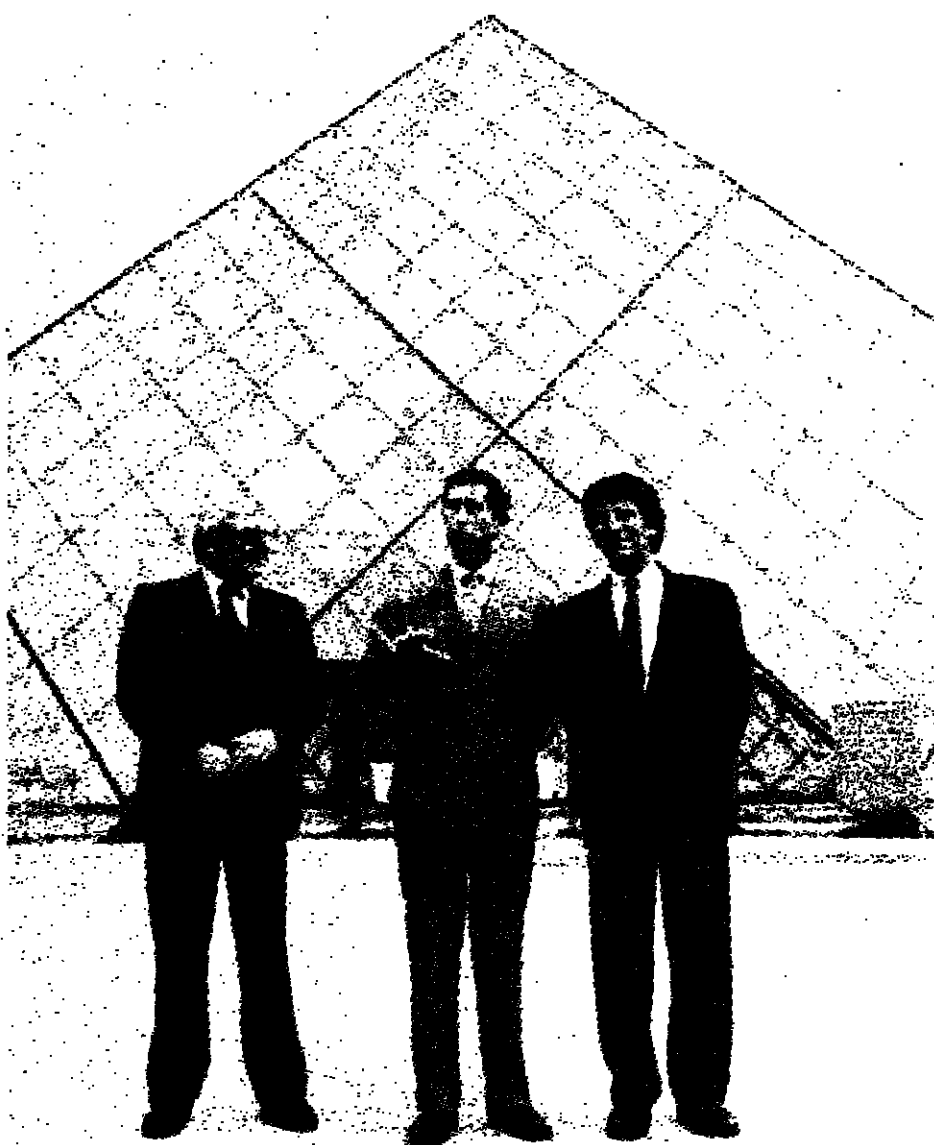
The royal pronouncement will certainly have pleased President Mitterrand, whose pet project this is.

Mr Pei's pyramid, the most visible part of an imaginative scheme to make the wonderful museum's collections more accessible to the public by creating an underground network of corridors and reception centres, contains 180 tonnes of stainless steel framework and special glass from Pilkington.

It towers over the whole scheme and will have to be cleaned by trained climbers.

Before exploring the pyramid's hidden depths, the Prince put the wind up the police and his worried bodyguards but delighted another eager crowd by strolling over to the security railings and chatting casually.

Perhaps he was explaining that "Lady Dee" was otherwise occupied on a shopping expedition. But the crowd loved it, applauding and calling "Vive le Prince!"



The Prince of Wales, with M Jack Lang, French Minister of Culture (right), and M Emile Bariani, Secretary of State for construction projects, discussing the Louvre's glass pyramid.

The European internal market

Prince sees challenges in 1992

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The Prince of Wales had the cream of French businessmen laughing in Paris yesterday when he described himself as a dilettante when it came to business practice and asked them if they would really buy a secondhand car from him.

The Prince, whose speech was dedicated to the 1992 European Single Market, was attending a joint luncheon given by the British Chamber of Commerce and the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. His point was that even if the Royal Family "found it difficult to sell anything" they could market Great Britain and act as a catalyst for business co-operation.

The year 1992, said the Prince, "is the biggest change which business in our two countries has faced in our lifetime", but he warned "those

that are not seriously prepared in advance will probably find the challenge overwhelming".

Speaking partly in good French and partly in English, "because it is only fair that you should get as much practice as I do", he predicted that "it will pay handsomely for companies to invest in first-class language training for their sales executives, an area which I suggest we need to address with urgency in the United Kingdom".

"If the single market is to achieve its full potential, there will inevitably have to be changes, not just in legislation but in attitudes," he said.

However, the Prince said: "There are limitations. The Single Market will not change geography, language or culture. Personally, I am quite glad of that. Our languages, culture, tastes and consumer

preferences are the essence of our individuality.

"It is important to remember this because some have feared that the single market means uniformity that will blunt sharp edges of national character. I don't believe this will happen to the French, and I don't believe it will happen to the British."

The Prince summed up his positive concept of European unity by saying: "The essence of the Community is to create prosperity for our citizens within an environment of democratic and human values."

It was a comprehensive vision that appealed to those present more than Mrs Thatcher's recent speech in Bruges. But French heads of industry, not familiar with the British habit of self-deprecation, were a bit bewildered by

the Prince's opening remarks on his lack of qualification to address them on business.

The Prince then held talks at the French Ministry of Industry between Lord Young and the French Minister for Industry, Mr Roger Fauroux. A small group of British and French businessmen were at the meeting, designed to develop common thinking on the Single European Market.

In the morning the Prince, accompanied by the Princess, inspected the large Marks and Spencer's store on Avenue Haussmann then went on to a clothing shop which sells British men's fashions.

Unprecedented crowds turned out to see the royal couple. Standing three and four-deep behind police barriers, they stretched solidly along the half-mile between the two shops.

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Papandreou acts to quell party fears over bank scandal

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, who is convalescing after heart surgery, defied doctors' orders yesterday to meet more than 150 deputies of his Socialist party and quell discontent prompted by rumours of government involvement in a banking scandal.

The scandal reached a climax last weekend with the disappearance of Mr George Koskotas, aged 34, the disgraced banking and publishing magnate said to have fled the country after charges of embezzling tens of millions of pounds from state deposits entrusted to his Bank of Crete.

Opposition parties accused the Papandreou Government of abetting the banker's escape out of fear that he would expose corruption in the Government. They demanded the Government's resignation and immediate elections.

A mass rally of "anger and protest" against corruption was staged by opposition groups in Athens last night, while the Communist Party announced daily protest meetings throughout the country to press for elections.

Mr Papandreou, who re-

ceived a warm ovation from party deputies gathered at his office here, admitted that the "bizarre and as yet inscrutable" scandal had caused a profound political and social crisis that put democratic institutions at risk.

"People tell me to grab a knife and lance the boil. I shall do what I can. But this is now in the hands of justice," he said.

The Prime Minister, who was advised by his doctors in London to take it easy for at least two months after his September 30 operation, was informed of the extent of the unrest within the parliamentary party during talks with Mr Yiannis Alevras, the respected President of Parliament, on Wednesday.

The veteran politician is said to have warned Mr Papandreou that Socialist deputies were unhappy not only about the allegations of corruption, but also about his conspicuous love affair with Mrs Dimitra Liani, aged 33, an airline stewardess, which they believed had damaged the party's image.

With an overall majority of only six in the 300-seat Par-

liament, the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) cannot afford the discontent to go unchecked. Any party defections could in turn force an election when Mr Papandreou least wants it.

The Government has said the banking scandal was part of a plot by "sinister forces" inside and outside Greece to topple the Administration. A government spokesman said ominously: "All Pasok deputies shall honour the people's mandate and remain loyal to the party and the leader."

Mr Papandreou hopes to dispel these misgivings by giving both his Cabinet and the party's executive bureau a facelift. There are indications that he will eliminate ministers whose handling of the Koskotas affair left many questions unanswered. Also for the first time he may bring into the Cabinet politicians outside Pasok, like Mr Mikis Theodorakis, the composer and politician, in order to ingratiate himself with the left.

However, a meeting of Pasok's central committee to elect a new executive, scheduled for Sunday, was postponed yesterday.

Bundestag Opposition demands resignation over Kristallnacht speech

Bonn Speaker's praise for Hitler sparks walk-out

From John England, Bonn

Opposition MPs here called yesterday for the resignation of Herr Philipp Jenninger, the Bundestag President (Speaker), for a speech in which he praised Hitler's early achievements and appeared in part to justify the Nazis' treatment of the Jews.

Many Social Democrat and Greens MPs as well as some liberals walked out of the chamber as Herr Jenninger, a member of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, spoke during a Bundestag ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nazis' Kristallnacht anti-Jewish pogrom.

In a speech that also alarmed and embarrassed his own party, Herr Jenninger said that even with knowledge of what followed them, the years 1933 to 1938 were "fascinating". There was hardly a parallel in history to Hitler's political triumphal procession during his early days, he said.

Herr Jenninger cited Hitler's reincorporation of the Saarland, introduction of general military service, massive rearmament, the Anglo-Ger-

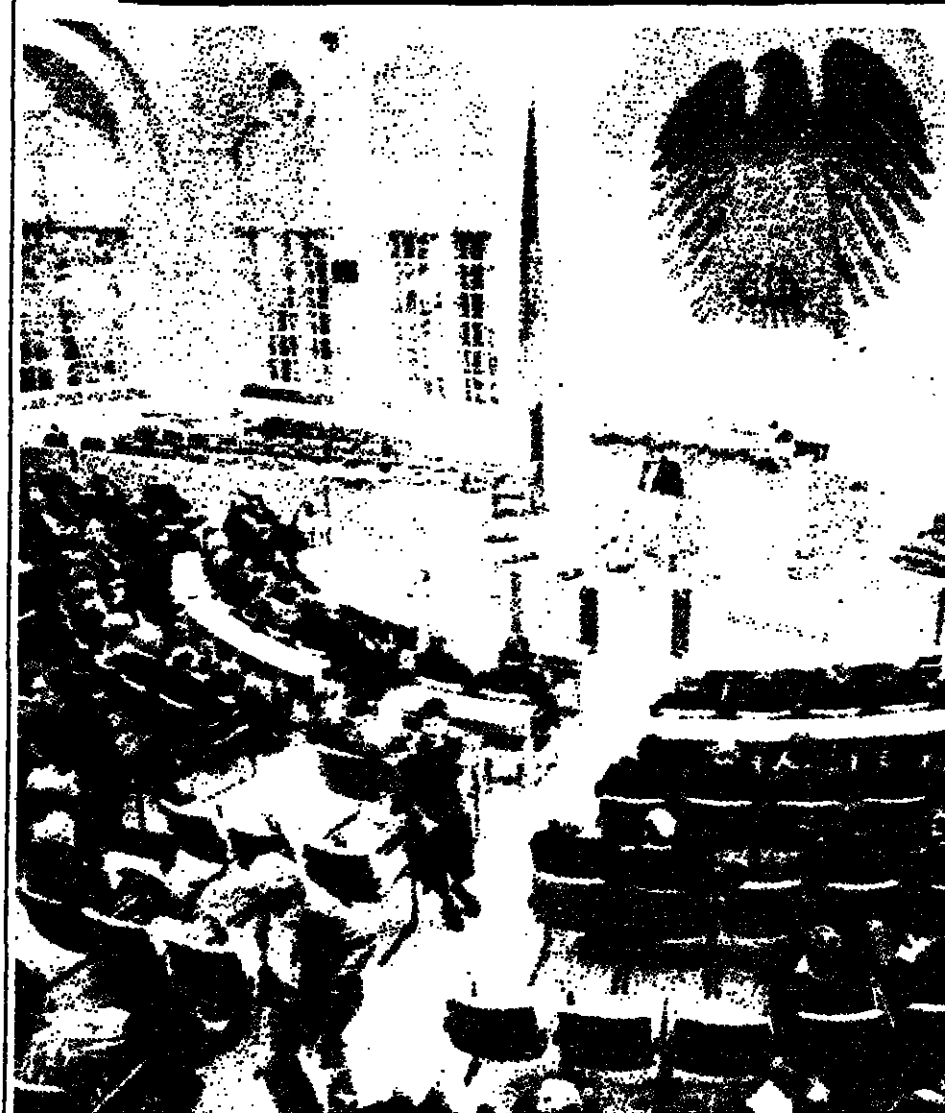
man naval agreement, occupation of the Rhineland, the Olympic Games in Berlin, the Anschluss with Austria, and finally — only a few weeks before the pogrom of November 1938 — the Munich agreement.

He said that the Versailles Treaty was then really "only a scrap of paper", and the German Reich had become the hegemonic power of the old continent.

For the Germans, most of whom had seen the Weimar Republic as the result of foreign policy humiliations, all that must have seemed like a miracle, Herr Jenninger added. But that was not all.

Hitler had also turned mass unemployment into full employment, and mass poverty into something like affluence for the widest sections of the people. Instead of desperation and hopelessness, there was optimism and self-confidence.

Referring to the Jews, the president asked if they had not in the past presumed a role that did not suit them. Had they not finally to accept restrictions, and had they not perhaps deserved to have a line drawn for them?



MPs walking out of the Bundestag yesterday over praise for Hitler's achievements.

Afghan peace process

Kabul calls on UN to arrange talks

From James Bone, New York

As the battle for power in Afghanistan intensifies, Dr Mohammad Hassan Sharh, the Prime Minister of the Soviet-backed Government, has opened a new front — at the United Nations.

Before leaving for home at the end of a visit to New York on Wednesday night, Dr Sharh called on the United Nations to convene an international conference to bring about the demilitarization of Afghanistan under international supervision.

He said his Government would seek a meeting of the Security Council, with the participation of other countries involved in Afghanistan, to enforce the Geneva peace accords signed in April.

With the Kabul regime facing an increasing successful onslaught by Mujahidin guerrillas, Dr Sharh has emerged as a key figure in the Soviet Union's efforts to instal a government that would allow it to retain its influence in the country.

Unlike Afghanistan's President Najibullah, Dr Sharh, aged 63, is not a member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and during his visit to the UN he was at pains to distance himself from his communist backers.

With the rapid approach of the February 15 deadline for

the completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, Moscow has stepped up its efforts to force compromise on the Mujahidin.

The Soviet Union recently introduced lethal new weapons into the country, including advanced MiG-27 ground-attack planes and long-range Scud-B missiles. Last week it announced that it was suspending troop withdrawals because the US and Pakistan were continuing to arm the Mujahidin in violation of the Geneva accords.

Moscow has also tightened its grip on the faction-ridden Government in Kabul by appointing Mr Juli Vorontsov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, as its Ambassador to Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union has lavished praise on Dr Sharh in a bid to promote him as a possible leader of a government of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

He had a meeting with President Gorbachev in Moscow in September to sign an agreement on economic, technical and trade co-operation between their two countries which will last until the year 2000.

Dr Sharh travelled to the UN in the hope of being allowed to address the General Assembly, but the US and Pakistan vetoed the idea.

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AE42	0830	1025	DAILY	AE41	1000	1000	MON-FRI
AE44	1500	1655	DAILY	AE43	1110	1110	DAILY
AE46	1645	1840	NOT SAT	AE45	1730	1730	DAILY
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AE32	1315	1515	MON-FRI	AE31	1100	1100	MON-SAT
AE34	1745	1945	NOT SAT	AE33	1700	1700	MON-FRI
AE36	1945	2145	NOT SAT	AE35	2020	2020	NOT SAT
AE38	0820	1015	SUN ONLY	AE37	1200	1200	SUN ONLY

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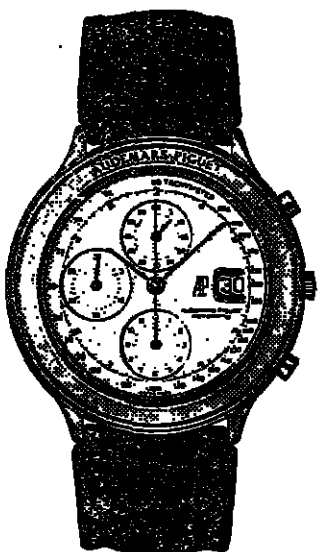
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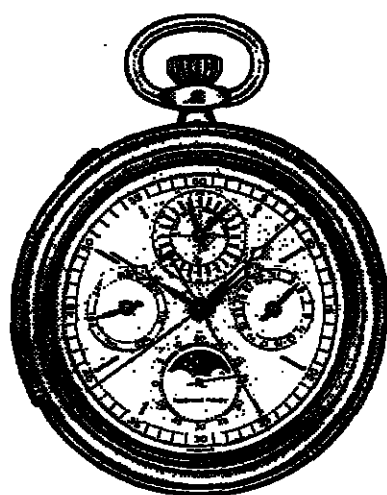
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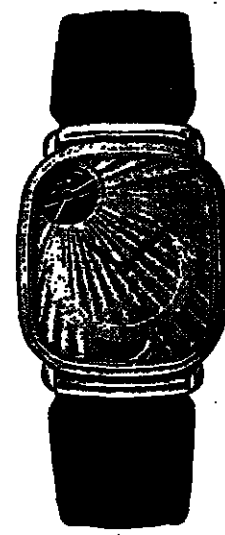
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Fifteen die as Sri Lankans enforce shoot on sight rule

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

At least 15 people were killed and more than 25 injured in three separate shooting incidents across Sri Lanka yesterday as the Government enforced its declaration on Wednesday that anti-government demonstrators would now be shot on sight.

Military officials said six people died when security forces opened fire on a crowd of 2,000 slogan-chanting demonstrators at Tissamaharama, near the town of Hambantota on the island's south coast.

Hambantota is a centre of operations for the Marxist underground group Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna which has been organizing strikes and demonstrations that have paralysed the country in its attempt to overthrow the Government of President Jayewardene.

In a second shooting at the nearby town of Tangalla, troops opened fire to disperse 1,500 demonstrators, killing four people. A further five were killed after a crowd attacked an army truck at Badalgama in the south-eastern Moneragala district.

The authorities have now extended an uninterrupted curfew in Hambantota which came into force at 6 pm local time on Wednesday and will not now be lifted until 4 am tomorrow.

In Colombo the presidential election campaign entered its final stage with the acceptance of nominations by the Election Commission of three candidates - the Prime Minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa, for the ruling United National Party; Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, for the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party; and Mr Ossie Abeyagoonsekera, of the Sri Lanka People's Party.

The JVP marked the nominations by ordering a nationwide *hartal*, or strike, in protest which closed all businesses, shops and even gov-

ernment offices. The strike came after three consecutive days of JVP-sponsored walk-outs which have affected Colombo port, the telecommunications and transport industries and caused huge rises in food prices.

In leaflets distributed on Wednesday, the JVP called for a "national day of protest" on the elections, due on December 19.

The streets of the capital were again virtually deserted for most of the day with police guarding key buildings and installations. There were, however, huge queues at petrol stations mostly consisting of cab and bus drivers trying to stay in business during a strike by workers at the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

An alliance of five opposition parties is expected to sign a joint election manifesto today with Mrs Bandaranaike. The JVP had earlier participated, but pulled out after the Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader decided to contest the elections with the party's traditional symbol and colours. The JVP said it no longer believed in presidential elections.

● **DELHI (AFP):** A Maldivian businessman arrested by Indian troops has implicated a Sri Lankan Tamil militant leader as the mastermind of an unsuccessful coup bid against President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives.

Abdullah Luthfi, who took an active part in the coup which was crushed by Indian troops, told the Press Trust of India that Mr Uma Maheswaran wanted to seize the Indian Ocean archipelago because of its "rich investment possibilities".

Mr Maheswaran is the leader of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, which has already denied involvement.

Troops open fire on Brazilian strikers



Armed Brazilian soldiers guarding steel plant strikers after a clash with troops and military police at the National Steel Company's Volta Redonda plant in Rio de Janeiro state on Wednesday night.

Hundreds of troops backed by tanks opened fire while forcing open South America's biggest steel plant. Three strikers were killed and 30 hurt (Reuters reports from São Paulo).

Witnesses said yesterday that thousands of steelworkers fought the troops

with sticks and stones. It was the first time in the history of Brazil's three-year-old civilian Government that deaths had been reported in a conflict between strikers and the Army. A National Steel Company spokesman said that the troops had opened fire while fighting the strikers, but he did not know how the deaths occurred.

The troops "were obliged to use force to enter," he said. The last of the several thousand strikers occupying the plant

decided to leave peacefully yesterday morning, he added.

The violence at Volta Redonda, which has 25,000 workers, occurred just five days after the Government, business and some trade unions signed a pact to try to solve the country's economic crisis. Inflation in Brazil is more than 700 per cent a year. Rio de Janeiro is considered one of the more politically volatile regions in Brazil and at present is suffering from a wave of strikes.

New Soviet crew ready for duty on space station

Moscow (Reuters) - As two cosmonauts neared the space station, the Soviet Union announced yesterday that a new crew would leave soon off for the permanently manned Mir space station.

Commander Alexander Volkov told a news conference that he would lead a five-month mission to Mir due to be launched on November 26. His crew includes Mr Sergei Krikalyov and a French spaceman, M Jean-Loup Chretien.

Colonel Vladimir Titov and Colonel Musa Manarov, the current Mir occupants, would return to Earth on December 21 with M Chretien. Commander Volkov said. He and Mr Krikalyov will remain on Mir until April.

The planned five-month mission marks a change in the Soviet policy of setting successive endurance records. Today Colonel Titov and Colonel Manarov will equal the 326-day record set last December by Commander Yuri Romanenko. According to the plan, they will have spent a year in space when they return.

Recent Soviet reports have emphasized that both cosmonauts are healthy. Dr Valery Polyakov boarded Mir in August and is to stay through the next mission.

In the closing stages of his

flight, Commander Romanenko complained of fatigue and homesickness. His original crewmate, Mr Alexander Lavichkin, returned to Earth after five and a half months when his heartbeat developed irregularities.

The effects of long periods of weightlessness have been among the main studies during Soviet flights over the past few years, aiming for a 30-month manned flight to Mars early next century.

Officials say Commander Romanenko suffered no long-term effects from his stay on Mir. He lost 15 per cent of his leg muscles, but within a few days was shown on television walking unaided. He looked fit at a news conference a month later.

According to Tass, Mir's crew work out daily on an exercise bicycle to maintain leg muscles, while their cardio-vascular systems - prone to reduced efficiency - are checked for strain.

Mir has been in orbit since it was launched in February 1986 to replace the Salyut-7 space station, which was abandoned.

● **Shuttle today:** A date for the launch of the Soviet shuttle, Buran (Snowstorm), will be announced today. It was meant to blast off last month but the launch was aborted.

Fanatical Marxist group set to bring state to its knees

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

In a country with a tragic recent history dominated by the bloody struggle of Tamil guerrillas, the rise of the fanatical Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna underground movement is behind the most serious crisis the country has faced since independence from Britain 40 years ago.

Despite the massacres and hatred stirred by the campaign of militant groups such as the Tamil Tigers for their state of Eelam, it is the Sinhalese nationalist JVP or People's Liberation Front which has all but brought Sri Lanka to its knees.

The institutions of government have virtually collapsed. Essential services are paralysed and life has become dominated during the day by strikes, or *hartals*, which close shops, businesses and the transport system and, at

● Leader committed to violent overthrow of Government ●

night, by curfews imposed by the Army. Political murders - normally Mafia-style individual assassinations - which average up to ten a day, have been confined to the inside columns of the local press.

With the Government demonstrably impotent, having exhausted ways to solve the crisis, the presidential elections due on December 19 are in serious doubt and growing violence in the coming weeks is seen as inevitable.

The JVP, however, has not appeared from nowhere. It has a long history beginning in the mid-1960s as a breakaway from Maoist groups. Its leader, Mr Rohana Wijeweera, now in his late 40s, is the son of a small trader from the impoverished south who was educated briefly at Moscow University. Drawing on the political philosophy of Marx, Mr Wijeweera is committed to the violent overthrow of the Government.

His movement based itself in the southern coastal cities of Hambantota, Galle and Matara, and grew rapidly in the early years, seeding on a new breed of students, highly educated in a system bequeathed by the British, but frustrated by unemployment and the cost of living.

In 1971 Mr Wijeweera launched his first attempt to overthrow the Government of Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, who stands as the main opposition candidate in next month's elections. More than

100 police stations were attacked on April 5 and in some areas the insurrection lasted over two weeks.

Mrs Bandaranaike, however, ordered the Army to crush the revolt. Up to 8,000 people were killed and 18,000, including Mr Wijeweera, were imprisoned.

Mr Wijeweera spent seven years in jail before being released under a general amnesty in 1978 by the then Prime Minister, Mr Junius Jayewardene, now President. The failure of the uprising knocked the stuffing out of the movement until the early 1980s, when Mr Wijeweera emerged briefly in open alliance with President Jayewardene's Government.

The relationship quickly soured after what Mr Wijeweera believed was an illegal 1982 referendum, reconfirming Mr Jayewardene as President. In 1983, Mr Jayewardene had the JVP banned, blaming it for communal riots in Colombo in which more than 3,000 Tamils were butchered. It has since been established that those leading the rioters were members of Mr Jayewardene's own ruling United National Party, not the JVP.

Back underground, Mr Wijeweera began building the organization from scratch, drawing once more on the students and on growing dissatisfaction with Mr Jayewardene's Government in the deep south.

The movement, thought to consist of a hard core of about

● Twin campaign of assassinations and forcing strikes ●

2,000 members, has Mr Wijeweera at the top as a self-styled general secretary. Beneath him is a nine-member Politburo drawn from a Central Committee of 24 and, at village level, the JVP operates through tiny cells.

The campaign, which has led to the crisis, began in July last year after President Jayewardene signed a peace accord with India in a last-ditch attempt to solve the Tamil insurgency.

To the JVP the accord, was little more than a betrayal of Sri Lanka's national sovereignty. From the day the agreement was signed, the JVP began its twin campaigns of assassinating ruling UNP supporters and forcing strikes on the country. More than 600 UNP members have since been murdered.

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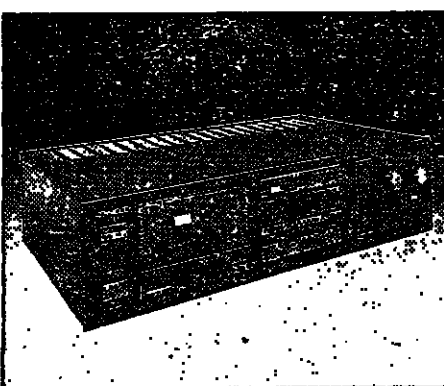
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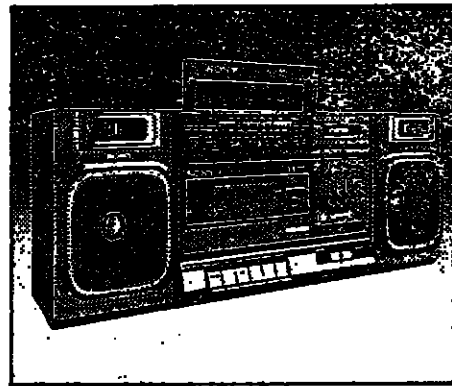
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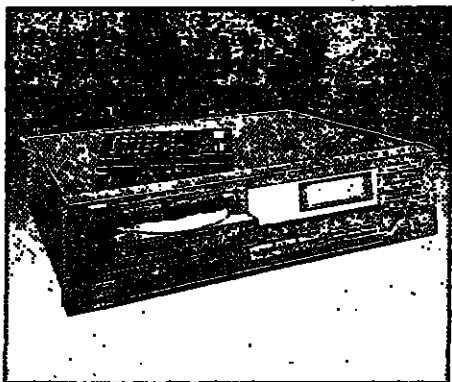
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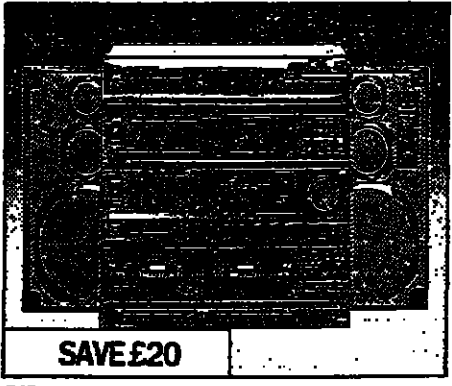
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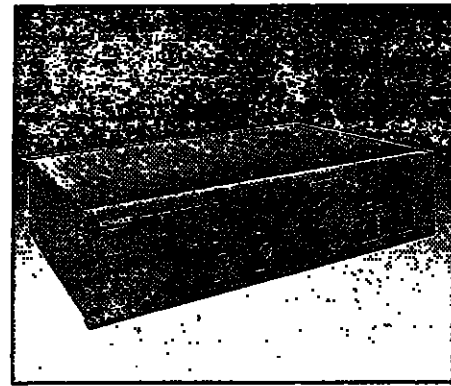
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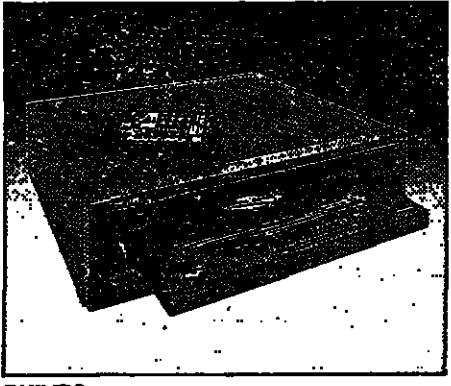
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Smaller parties and independents may hold balance in a hung parliament

Bhutto fails to draw mass support as Pakistan poll nears

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

The result of Pakistan's election on November 16 is likely to be a hung parliament. Neither main political grouping will be in a dominant position, and the balance will be held by smaller parties and independent MPs.

This at least is the belief of a growing number of Pakistanis at all levels of society. It is felt that the Pakistan People's Party of Miss Benazir Bhutto has failed to start an irresistible bandwagon of mass support. The potential vote for its Alliance, appears to be holding up.

The Muslim League, chief component of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, has the advantage of being able to woo voters with state patronage, since it forms the caretaker government in the province.

An opinion poll published on Tuesday by the *Nation* newspaper gave the Islamic Democratic Alliance 40.4 per cent of the vote and the People's Party 33.2 per cent

with the rest supporting smaller parties or undecided.

The number of people questioned — only 250 — was so small that the poll has

Islamabad — The state media said the Supreme Court will rule tomorrow whether the Government may appeal against a High Court modification of a government order making production of identity cards compulsory for voters (Anatol Lieven writes).

attracted a measure of ridicule. But the fact that the areas of Lahore where the survey was made are considered pro-People's Party may be of some significance.

Eight smaller parties — most of them religious groupings headed by Muslim clerics — are allied with the Muslim League in the Islamic Democratic Alliance. The largest and most radical of these is the formidably disciplined Jamaat Islami.

The Pakistan People's Alliance

holds an intermediate position between the People's Party and Islamic Democratic Alliance. It is made up chiefly of two parties: the Jamiat-Ulema-e-Pakistan, a religious party of liberal and syncretic tendencies, and the Tehrik-i-Istiqal. This left-leaning anti-feudal party, standing for "modernization", has some support in the professional middle classes.

The Tehrik is led by former Air Marshal Asghar Khan who was a leader of the PNA movement in 1977, against election results believed to have been rigged by the Government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He has never found it possible to work closely with Miss Bhutto.

This has also been a problem for the leaders of the small parties in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which for several years campaigned against the rule of General Zia. The People's Party was always by far its largest component, and ex-



Journalists surrounding Miss Bhutto as she arrives at Islamabad airport yesterday to address a rally in Rawalpindi.

pected a predominant voice in consequence. This the leaders of the smaller parties were never willing to accept.

After a year in which the People's Party played no real part in deliberations, the movement finally collapsed last month. The People's Party went its own way, but the others are contesting the election in loose alliance.

Potentially the most important of the smaller parties is a relative newcomer which is contesting the election on its own. The Mohajir Qaumi

Movement was formed three years ago to protect the interests of the Mohajirs, or Urdu-speaking immigrants from India. These are concentrated in the cities of Sind.

In recent years, the Mohajirs have felt under increasing pressure from Pathan immigrants to Sind from the North West Frontier Province and Afghanistan, as well as from the Sindhis — now a bare majority in their own province. Last November, the Movement won a sweeping victory in local elections, and

now forms the municipal governments in Karachi and Hyderabad. It is the best organized of the parties except for the Jamaat, and is headed by elected leaders from the lower middle class.

Its leaders have been talking to both the People's Party and Islamic Democratic Alliance. Insofar, however, as the People's Party is still associated to an extent with Sindhi national pride (the Bhuttos are Sindhi aristocrats) the Movement may lean naturally towards the Islamic Democratic Alli-

ance. Moreover, as a minority in Sind, the Mohajirs tend to be staunch Pakistan nationalists and to resist calls for greater provincial autonomy.

If the Movement does achieve prominence in national politics, this could have consequences on the streets as well as for government. When it swept the municipal polls a year ago, it helped spark off a fresh round of ethnic violence. The massacre of more than 200 people in Sind a month ago has made everyone acutely aware of this danger.

Death toll in China quake may top 1,000

Peking (Reuters) — The death toll in south-west China's earthquake could top 1,000 and strong tremors will continue to rock Yunnan province for the next two months.

Rescuers have not yet determined the full human cost, but 2,800 people are known to have been seriously injured, and 200,000 are homeless.

TAIPEI: Victims of the quake may get aid from an unlikely source — the fiercely anti-communist ruling Nationalist Party of Taiwan.

500 years' jail

Melbourne (Reuters) — Julian Knight, an army cadet aged 20, was sentenced to nearly 500 years in jail here for killing seven people and injuring several others during a rampage with high-powered rifles in August last year.

Seamen jailed

Beirut (Reuters) — A Libyan court has sentenced 11 Italians to up to 2½ years' hard labour, fined them and confiscated their boat after they illegally entered Libyan waters.

Refinery fire

Bombay (AP) — A fire that killed 17 people at the state-owned Bharat Petroleum oil refinery here is still burning.

Domestic dilemmas

Takeshita's high world standing undercut at home

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Could Mr Noboru Takeshita have imagined when he became Prime Minister of Japan last year that on his first anniversary he would be lauded for his foreign diplomacy and almost toppled by his party's involvement in a share profiteering scandal, sensational even by Japan's standards of political bribery?

When Mr Takeshita took over from Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, few thought he could emerge from the shadow of his flamboyant predecessor. Mr Nakasone's style was brash, punchy and obvious: his goals usually overshoot his achievements. His successor could not be more different.

Mr Takeshita is so skilled at quiet behind-the-scenes deals and front-of-house double-talk that his personal philosophy remains a mystery to most Japanese. His harsher critics say that it is probably a mystery to him as well.

Cartoonists complain that he is so uninspiring and his views so vague they do not know what to make fun of. If he talks to waitresses as he talks to voters he is unlikely to get anything to eat in restaurants.

"Nakasone is a strong, commanding leader while Takeshita is a consensus-building one," says Mr Kenzo Uchida, professor of political science at Tokyo's Hosei University. He adds: "If Nakasone were a brilliantly coloured oil painting, then Takeshita would be a black and white drawing."

He has been aided by his party's impregnable majority in Parliament, a rising yen that has helped to rein in Japan's troublesome trade surplus, and a booming domestic economy that has kept Japanese voters happy and swelled tax receipts.

Mr Takeshita set about his work with his usual diligence

and in political consensus. He gave leading Cabinet jobs to Mr Kiichi Miyazawa and to Mr Shintaro Abe, his rivals for the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and toured the world's capitals.

He met President Reagan and the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, in January. Soon after he visited Europe twice to meet Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl, and President Mitterrand. He was thus able to arrive in Toronto in June and meet world leaders on television as if they were old friends.

The tactic paid off, both at home and at Toronto, where he nudged Japan another step along the path of a "responsible superpower" by pledging to commit \$50 billion (£28 billion) of foreign aid over five years, making Japan the world's biggest aid donor.

But his success abroad has suddenly been dwarfed by developments at home. The illness of Emperor Hirohito, was hardly Mr Takeshita's fault. But his Government's panicky reaction was criticized once it was realized that the Emperor could be a long time on his sickbed.

The Government has tried to resume a more normal course, but if the Emperor does die soon its legislative programme could go out of the window.

The real threat to the Government's future is a share-trading scandal that has enmeshed senior politicians and their aides and several leading businessmen. All were offered, and bought, bargain-priced stock in a real estate company called Recruit Cosmos. The shares boomed when later listed on the stock market.

The questionable stock deals mostly took place during Mr Nakasone's administration. But Mr Takeshita's former aide bought Recruit shares and last month Mr Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, was listed among the buyers.

Mr Miyazawa denies any wrongdoing, but Mr Takeshita seems torn between sacrificing his Finance Minister to save his own neck and brightening the spotlight on other members of his Cabinet embroiled in the affair.

Opposition parliamentarians are refusing to discuss other government business until there has been a full investigation.



Mr. Takeshita: Personal philosophy a mystery.

First charges laid in Tokyo share scandal

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

A former executive of Recruit Cosmos, the Tokyo property company involved in the cheap-shares-for-favours scandal which has tainted top Japanese politicians and businessmen, was charged yesterday with attempting to bribe an MP. The charges were the first to be laid since the scandal was exposed.

The Tokyo district public prosecutor's office charged Mr Hiroshi Matsubara with attempting to give seven million yen (about £32,000) to Mr Yonosuke Narazaki, an opposition MP, to stop him asking awkward questions.

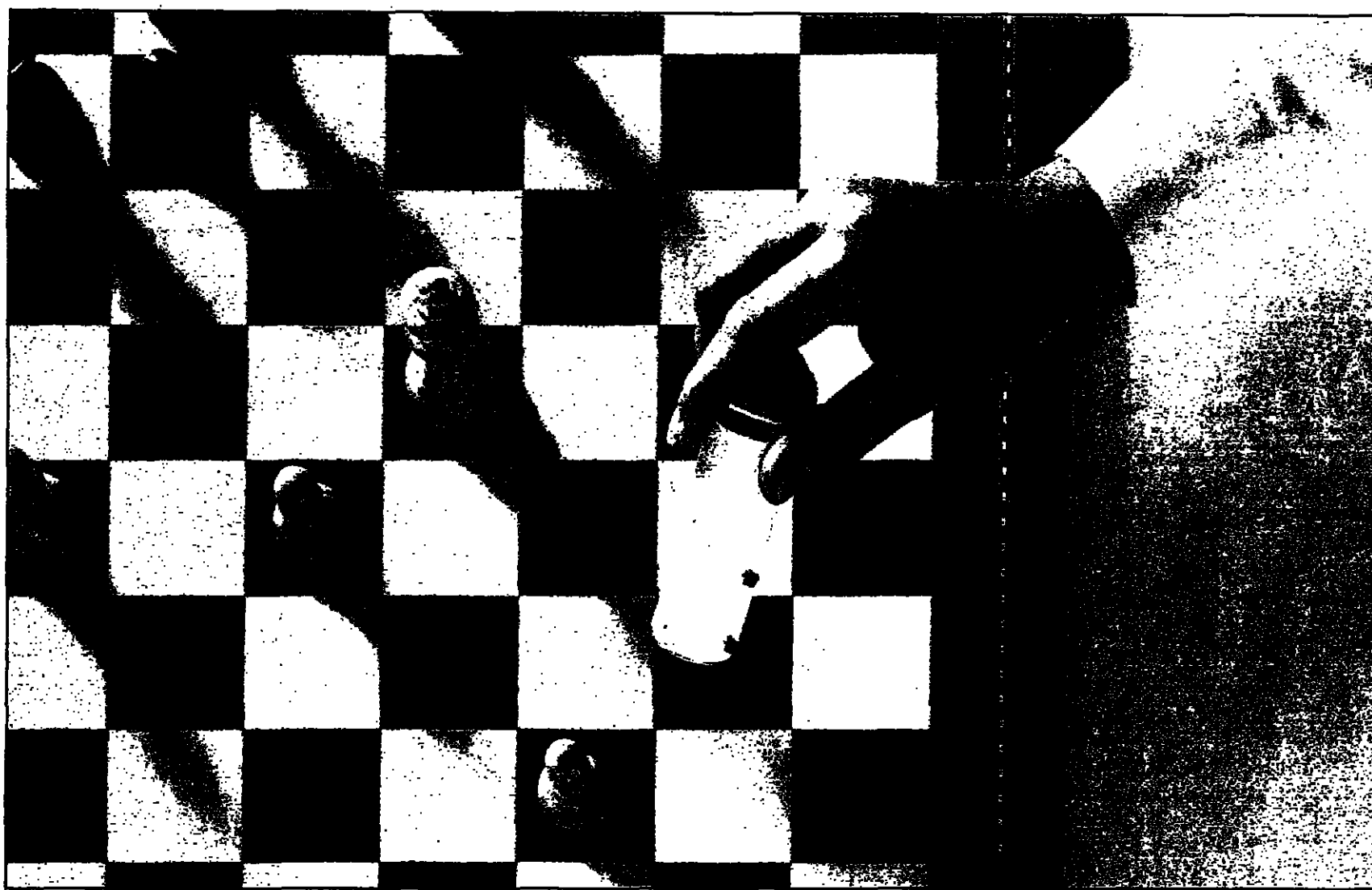
Mr Matsubara, the former

chief assistant to the president of Recruit Cosmos, was fined by a hidden camera allegedly offering the cash to the MP.

The charges add fresh spice to a scandal that has involved Mr Noboru Takeshita, Japan's Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, his predecessor, and other senior Cabinet members.

The scandal has also diverted parliamentary time away from a controversial package of tax reform Bills to the extent that the Government yesterday took the unusual step of forcing them through some early stages despite opposition protests.

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November 10 1988

Fire lessons 'fully learnt'

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, was faced with demands for his resignation when he made a statement to the Commons on the Fennell report on the King's Cross Underground fire.

Opposition demands were also made for the resignation of his predecessor, Mr Nicholas Ridley, who was accused of putting efficiency and economy before safety in his instructions to the Underground management.

Mr Channon said that a series of new measures were to be introduced to improve safety and that the lessons of the tragedy had to be fully learnt and applied.

In his statement, Mr Channon said that Mr Desmond Fennell had concluded that the fire was started by a discarded match falling into accumulated grease and debris on the track of the escalator, and that it accelerated up the trench of the escalator until it burst into the booking hall, causing the deaths of 31 people.

Action was already under way on many of Mr Fennell's 157 recommendations. Many of these required specific action by London Underground Ltd to prevent a recurrence. They included the urgent removal of wooden panelling from escalators.

"I have asked London Regional Transport to have all these recommendations dealt with promptly. Considerable amounts will have to be spent."

Plans announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on November 1 provided fully for all the proposals already put to him (Mr Channon) for spending on Underground safety, totalling £266 million over the next three years.

"The investigation has shown major shortcomings, requiring a new approach to safety management and fire prevention in the Underground and specific safety audits by LRT. I am calling on both bodies urgently to put into effect new arrangements as recommended by Mr Fennell."

An enhanced approach was also required from the Railway Inspectorate and he had discussed the recommendations with the chairman of the Health and Safety Commission.

"I have every reason to expect that the present recovery campaign will bring the Inspectorate fully up to complement by the end of January. It will need to be further strengthened for the tasks that Mr Fennell identifies, including the use of the powers of the Health and Safety at Work Act to enforce measures needed for the safety of passengers on the Underground — and, I must add, on other railways."

The Chief Inspector of Railways was organizing a special investigation of the London Underground with support from the Health and Safety Executive. It would examine the safety management systems and monitor implementation of planned safety measures. It would be completed in March.

The Home Secretary would shortly bring forward regulations under Section 12 of the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, to require specific measures at Underground stations. "This is the speediest means to introduce enforceable standards without uncertainty. The railway operators and fire authorities will be consulted on them."

The Home Secretary was commissioning special studies of the best methods to control spread of smoke. These presented difficult technical problems.

There were also lessons for the emergency services. Copies of the report were being sent to the London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service. He would consider its implications for the British Transport Police.

The investigation has shown major shortcomings, requiring a new approach to safety management and fire prevention

and other ministers would consider the implications for the emergency services for which they had responsibilities.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the real causes behind the tragedy were London Underground's obsession with reducing costs through continuous reductions in manpower and resources, affecting safety, and the need for the responsibilities for Underground safety to be transferred to the independent Health and Safety Commission.

The report made clear that responsibilities for the monumental failure to provide adequate safety standards lay directly with the highest level of management. There would be few regrets from the Opposition at their departure.

Could the Secretary of State inform the House of his reasons in more detail for not accepting the offer of Sir Keith to resign immediately after the tragedy?

Had it been based on the fact that Sir Keith had successfully achieved the policy objectives of increasing revenue while reducing costs, staffing and subsidy support.

Those objectives were set out in a letter of July 12, 1984, by the present Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas

Ridley), to Sir Keith, in which there was no mention of the importance of attaining the highest levels of safety necessary in the public transport industry.

The letter was a disgrace and had been a contributory factor to the terrible tragedy. His success in achieving those objectives had presumably influenced the Government in recommending Sir Keith for his knighthood.

Would it not have been better to have used subsidies and other contributions to the Treasury for the safety investment that the Secretary of State now proposed? If that had been done then, instead of now, that might have prevented the tragedy.

Was Mr Channon aware of the growing safety fears of Underground passengers? The new safety responsibilities which had been mentioned would not be regarded as sufficient by the Opposition. The promise by the Secretary of State to bring his own safety inspectorate up to the proper level was an indictment of his department's attitude to the enforcement of safety in the transport industry.

Would he give serious consideration to the possibility of transferring responsibilities for Underground safety matters from his department to the independent Health and Safety Commission?

Finally, does he accept that as Secretary of State for Transport he, and his predecessors before him, were in part responsible for this disaster?

It was Mr Ridley who assured me in this House that, in taking responsibility for London Transport from the London elected representatives to himself, that the Secretary of State for Transport would be directly responsible and accountable for safety matters.

"Will he now accept that responsibility by following the example set by London Underground's most senior management, and tendering his own resignation?"

Mr Channon said that Mr Prescott had misrepresented the position of Mr Ridley.

The letter Mr Ridley had sent referred right at the beginning to the Act setting out the framework and duties for the board and chairman of LRT. The Act laid down safety as of paramount importance.

Mr Prescott had implied that it was the fault of the Government for reducing costs. But the inspector had specifically said: "In my judgement, there is no evidence that the overall level of investment available to LRT was inadequate to finance necessary safety-related spending and maintain safety standards."

The inspector had also said: "I accept the evidence of the most senior management of LRT and the London Underground that if funds were



Mr Prescott: Does the minister accept that he and his predecessors were partly to blame?

needed, funds were available".

Mr Frank Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras, Lab) said that the Act setting up LRT urged them to bear in mind economy, efficiency and safety.

What were senior management of LRT and London Underground to make of a letter from Mr Ridley, which, in 838 words, talked only of economy and efficiency and said not a word about safety?

"Surely they were to conclude that economy and efficiency were to be more important than safety."

Did Mr Channon accept responsibility for the shortcomings of his department's railway inspectorate who knowingly deployed only one health and safety officer to police the

whole of London Underground and British Rail Southern Region together?

At the inquiry it was accepted that ministers were responsible for safety policy.

Which ministers were referred to on day 79 of the inquiry when it was stated by the chief inspector that ministers had crucified the railway inspectorate for making too many safety demands on London Underground?

"If any of the ministers concerned are still in post, surely they should follow the example set by Sir Keith (Brighton and Dr Ridley, and I hope, the other Ridley, and resign."

Mr Channon said that MPs could read Mr Ridley's letter and see exactly what he said.

The London Regional Transport Act laid down that LRT should have due regard for efficiency, economy and safety of operation. In no way was that qualified later in the letter.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab) said that on October 26, 1987, Sir Keith Bright had met a number of London Labour MPs and expressed deep concern about the directions he was then operating under, including a contraction in costs of £95 million while maintaining fares at a stable level.

Mr Channon said that he could only refer Mr Spearing to the conclusions of the inspector himself where he said that there was no evidence that the level of safety was inadequate because of lack of funds. That must be conclusive.

Labour angered by refusal of Lawson debate

It was not unusual for an opposition to call for a vote of no-confidence in a Chancellor, but it was a rare event for a Cabinet to pass one. Mr Frank Dobson, shadow Leader of the House, said.

He was commenting on the Cabinet's failure to agree to Opposition demands for a debate on the controversy over Mr Lawson's recent remarks.

He was also adding his voice to that of Mr Kinnoch in pressing the Government for an early debate on the Chancellor's comments to journalists about benefits for pensioners.

During questions about forthcoming business in the Commons he said: "We believe that the Leader of the House owes it to the Chancellor himself, owes it to pensioners faced with the threat of means-tested benefits, to the journalists whose integrity has been thrown into question by the Chancellor, to have this debate and have it soon."

Mr John Wakeham said that the Chancellor had already answered a private notice question and spoken outside the House.

Earlier, during Prime Minister's questions, Mr Neil Kinnoch asked Mrs Thatcher if she would tell the House why the Cabinet was afraid to debate the conduct and plans of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (cheers and protest). What had they got to hide?

Mrs Thatcher: There is no question of being afraid to debate it. I notice that out of 17 days when the Opposition had last year when they could have chosen to debate economics, they chose only two. They cannot relish facing the Chancellor of the Exchequer very much.

Mr Kinnoch: It must be obvious, even to the Prime Minister that the Chancellor has woven a tangled web around himself. Why won't she give him a chance to clear his name in this House?

Mrs Thatcher: The Chancellor has built the best economy this country has ever known and everyone in this House has done very well out of it.

Mr Kinnoch: Does the Prime Minister agree with the Chancellor that only a tiny minority of pensioners have problems in making ends meet?

Mrs Thatcher: The simple fact is — (Opposition cry: "Yes or no") — that only 18 per cent of pensioners are on income support. That is quite clearly a minority.

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C) asked if she would confirm that one thing at least was now clear: after the Chancellor's briefing of the press last

BENEFITS

Sunday, the Government was now considering additional ways of helping the less well off pensioners.

Mrs Thatcher: That is absolutely correct.

Mr Ralph Howell (North Norfolk, C) As every Labour government has always operated a means test on all citizens of this country, is the Leader of the Opposition not talking total humbug?

Will she give urgent consideration to producing one form on which a decision is made on whether tax is to be paid, or benefits are to be given, to top up inadequate income?

Mrs Thatcher: I would not be in favour of that. It would lead to endless complexity.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central, Lab) As Prime Minister of Westland (protesters) does she feel that she is the best person to judge the integrity of the Chancellor?

Mrs Thatcher: The future of Westland was determined by its commercial future and that was absolutely the right decision. We have one of the best chancellors this country has ever had.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) Why are you going to sack him, then?

Mr Dobson later asked the Leader of the House why the Cabinet had refused to debate the Opposition motion criticising Mr Lawson.

Mr Lawson had apparently been prepared to defend himself on television and radio.

"Is it that the Chancellor is afraid to come and face the question, or is it that the rest of the Cabinet are afraid of what he might let slip when trying to defend what he did, or did not, say?"

"It is not unusual for an Opposition to call for a vote of no confidence, but it is a very rare event for a Cabinet to pass one — and that is what we have seen today."

Would Mr Wakeham reconsider the position so that the Commons could debate this important motion because it was a matter that was not going to go away?

Mr Wakeham said that the Chancellor had already answered a private notice question and spoken outside the House. As Leader of the House, he had to have regard for the views of the whole House and the business he had announced for Monday was important business in which many members were interested.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons will be: Monday: Debates on EEC safety documents; biological risks to workers; cigarette tar and tobacco labelling; titanium dioxide waste and on dimensions of articulated vehicles. Tuesday: Prorogation.

House of Lords: Monday: Housing Bill, Commons amendments; Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) Order. Debate on tourist industry review. Tuesday: Prorogation.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Timetable motions and debates on Lords amendments to School Boards (Scotland) Bill and Housing Bill.

Bush is congratulated on 'a splendid victory'

There were loud Conservative cheers at question time as the Prime Minister offered congratulations to Mr George Bush on his "splendid victory" in the US presidential elections.

She was responding to Mr Peter Thurnham (Bolton North East, C), who asked if she would thank the President-elect for the part America had played in helping to ensure a record 43 years of peace in Europe.

Would she offer him her continued staunch support for the future strength of the Alliance?

Mrs Thatcher said that she gladly joined with him and most

MPs in congratulating Mr Bush on his splendid victory. It was a personal triumph for him.

She also took the opportunity to thank the US for being such a staunch ally in Nato, stationing forces of about 330,000 in Europe. She hoped that their contribution would continue.

"I am the first to agree that Europe must be prepared to share a full part in the burden of the defence of Europe. This country does just that, as can be seen from the recent autumn statement."

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab): What advice will she give to President-elect Bush about

Thatcher thanks a staunch ally

Bush is congratulated on 'a splendid victory'

PRIME MINISTER

tackling the United States debt problem? It could spark off a serious international economic crisis.

Will she advise him to spend less on armaments and not more? Will she advise this and not beat about the bush (laughter and protests)?

Mrs Thatcher: When we get down to considering the budget deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product, theirs is much smaller than the deficit which

Labour had here during its term of office.

Other points raised during Prime Minister's Questions included:

● One of the purposes of the student top-up loans announced the day before was to help people who could not at the moment go to university, the Prime Minister said.

She said that with the loans they could take up places that could otherwise not be available to them.

Mr Robert MacLennan, leader of the Democrats, had asked her to acknowledge that the purpose of Government support for stu-

dents should be to increase substantially the number of those in higher education.

He said that the proposals she had announced were based upon the projection that by 1996 there would be no increase in student numbers. Was that not laying this country open to dangerous competition from other, better educated, industrialized democracies?

Mrs Thatcher said that the system of the student grants and now top-up loans was one of the most generous in the world.

She was sure most people appreciated that. There were increasing numbers of students

and an increasing proportion going into higher education.

● Remarks by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, that Birmingham Children's Hospital nurses were not doing the work that they were paid for were offensive, Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Edingford, Lab) said.

He urged her to ask Mr Clarke to withdraw them.

Mrs Thatcher: I have not seen any such remarks made by the minister. The structure of the grading was agreed between management and nurses and applied to 440,000 nurses by the regions.

MPs get chance for full Ulster debate

A Northern Ireland Bill that will give MPs a chance — rare since the beginning of direct rule — to have a full length debate and table amendments was forecast for the new session starting later this month, by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

In exchanges on security during question time, he strongly criticized MPs who questioned the security of the status of the province as part of the United Kingdom and said that there was no such insecurity, except that caused by those who questioned it.

Mr King said that a comprehensive review of security was under way in the province against a background of increasing terrorist violence.

In response to questions from Mr William McCrea (Mid Ulster, DUP) and Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, OUP) Mr King said that the security forces had shown great courage in the defence of the community.

"The House will be aware of their significant efforts in recent days in preventing a number of serious attacks."

He said that 308 people had been charged with serious offences so far this year, including 16 with murder.

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Housing Bill 'a charter for gangsters'

A storm of protest erupted from the Opposition benches when, after eight hours of debate on Lords amendments to the Housing Bill in the Commons, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, successfully moved that further consideration of the Bill should be adjourned. Voting was 149 to 46 — Government majority 103.

In a noisy debate, the adjournment was criticised as an abuse of parliamentary procedure, the Government was accused of chicanery and the Bill was condemned as noxious, vicious, squalid and a charter for gangsters and racketeers.

Opposition members promised that the Bill would become an albatross that they would hang around Mr Ridley's neck.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that the Government had put itself into a mess over the Bill because of the

obduracy of the Secretary of State, who was principally responsible for the abysmal piece of legislation.

There were 62 pages of the Bill and more than 270 amendments had been tabled, mostly by the Government.

The Opposition was perfectly willing, indeed keen, to continue the discussion, but the Government did not want the Bill scrutinized or debated because it was embarrassed at the consequences it would have for millions of families.

It was obvious that the Government intended introducing a guillotine motion to curtail debate. He hoped that that would not mean the loss of Friday's debate on housing and the homeless.

Mr Robert Cryer (Bradford

South, Lab) said that Mr Ridley was not anxious to proceed since he was going ahead, without legislative authority, to establish Housing Action Trusts.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Dem) said that it was an extraordinary Bill, an extraordinary saga and was likely to have an extraordinary conclusion. He hoped that the Government would have a death bed repentance that it would repent first and die later.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the Government should have been warned when Mr Nicholas Hoogstraaten, the notorious crook who could be taught no lessons by Rachman, acclaimed the Bill as a step in the right direction.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that the Opposition could not take the

accommodation.

Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South, Lab) said that there was a macabre aspect to the Bill because, for the first time ever, the dead would be given a vote.

"For the first time ever you will have a situation in which the dead will be seen positively to acquiesce in the creation of this monstrosity."

Perhaps that explained the frequent disappearances and manifestations of Mr Ridley in the Chamber during the Bill. He was one of the undead.

There was a time-honoured process for proving whether someone was undead.

He then produced a mirror and a picture of Mr Ridley and said that if the picture did not immediately manifest itself in the mirror then Mr Ridley was undead. Holding the picture and mirror aloft, he said: "There is no image in the mirror."

security about the position of Northern Ireland.

Many people kept raising the matter. But the position was clear to the House of Commons and the Government. "There will be no change in status of Northern Ireland without the agreement of the majority in Northern Ireland."

That same view was shared by successive Irish governments. There was no question of insecurity.

He hoped there would be opportunities for legislation. He suggested there might be a chance in the next session of Parliament.

Gifts VAT assurance

There was no value-added tax payable on unconditional gifts of money to universities, nor did the mere acknowledgement of such support attract VAT, Vice-Chancellor, a Government spokesman, assured peers during questions.

He added that VAT was chargeable where the donation was conditional on a university supplying benefits in return, such as advertising or publicity.

There had been no change in the position and each case was considered by Customs and Excise on its merits.

Asset seizure talks open

The Government has opened talks with a further 40 countries on asset seizure agreements to counter the international trade in drugs, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary, Foreign Office, said in a written reply.

Negotiations were well advanced with several other governments, he added.

Bus firms

Deregulation had led to an increase of 465 operators running local bus services by May 1, 1988, Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State, Transport, said in a written reply.



REMEMBRANCE DAY.
SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 1988.
TWO MINUTES SILENCE
FOR THE NATIONAL DEBT.

SPECTRUM

The final forecast?

S spoken before any other congregation, some things said in the Hamburg Congress Hall this week would have begun a struggle at the exit doors between those stampeding away to begin building an ark and those anxious to start stockpiling food.

In the 61 years between now and 2050 the world's climate will see a change greater than any since the last ice age: land now inhabited by one third of the world's population will be subject to constant floods; drought will make barren grain-growing areas; 67 per cent of the land which now needs irrigation to produce will find itself in new arid regions of water shortage.

We were moving, said Willi Brandt, the former German Chancellor, now president of the North-South Commission, toward a catastrophe that "our imaginations can link only with a nuclear war". And his audience merely nodded in quiet, dismayed agreement.

For this was a world congress on climate and development. In a sense it was a dialogue of the deafened; these are the men whose warnings about the greenhouse effect (the consequences to the climate of the release into the atmosphere of carbon dioxide from burning coal and oil and deforestation) began in tentative whispers and have since risen to a shout. Only now are we beginning to listen, and hear what must be done.

More than 30 countries were represented by 10 times as many experts, academics, civil servants, politicians and industrialists. But it was only the outsiders who sat up straight when Ola Ullsten, a former Prime Minister of Sweden, said: "Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled experiment, whose ultimate consequences could be second only to a global nuclear war."

And Ullsten, after listing the climatic "freaks" of the past year or so — British gale, Jamaican hurricane, Sahel drought, Bangladeshi flood, Chinese harvest failure — added that the connection between these singularities and the greenhouse effect was

now "too thoroughly endorsed by science to be ignored by any person of reason".

Outsiders would have been struck by the graphic language of men of science. Dr Michael Glanz, of America's National Centre for Atmospheric Research, said: "The earth's climate is coming apart at the seams. Catastrophic droughts in Africa have shown what we are in for if no immediate action is taken. The industrial nations of the northern hemisphere cannot lean back in easy chairs and think it does not concern them. This time the catastrophe is ricocheting back on the main offenders."

Why, then, do such strident words not spark man to action? Because when challenged by the decision-makers (which is science-speak for politicians who will have to introduce unpopular legislation and industrialists who must finance eco-sane alternatives), the climatologists lack all proof. They can show how all that is happening is absolutely in line with first predictions. But proof of future events, no.

A warmer globe will bring changes in sea-levels and ice-caps, in vegetation and rainfall, in humidity and wind-speed, in cloud-cover and solar-radiation, in human migration and changed areas of industrialization, plus a score more variables: all interact, thus every calculation tends to circle back.

And into the chaotic arena of climate change come zealous as dedicated to a particular aspect of the abuse of the planet as others have been to specific diagnosis of child abuse — and as likely to be misdirected in their zeal.

The professors were less than kind to the Indian scientist who insisted that he was sceptical about two days of dire warnings. In any case, he said, global warming would "make India's northern deserts bloom so we can feed the United States". A glimpse here of a hidden agenda, for there are nations in Hamburg which predict themselves as net gainers from the dislocation following global warming.

BRIAN JAMES



ON THE WORLD'S WEATHER OUTLOOK

Experts meeting in Hamburg this week predict a stormy future

And there was little sympathy for academism. Mikhail Budyko, of the Soviet Union's State Committee for Hydrometeorology. By the year 2050, according to Budyko, the world's climate would be akin to the Pliocene Age three to four million years ago. And Soviet research, he added, indicated "no reason to think that this would be a catastrophe".

Yes, the world would get warmer, but only appreciably at the poles. Budyko continued. The effect would be to make now-barren tundra available for agriculture, to increase rainfall and harvests in the present grain belts, and even perhaps bring rain to northern Africa. As the greenhouse would also reduce the difference between hot and cold countries and the season in each, he said, was there not a case for actually increasing carbon dioxide emissions?

This is a gross oversimplification, yet it retains the essence of a paper which depressed many of his listeners and had some using plates in smart Hamburg restaurants as globes to demonstrate his fallacies.

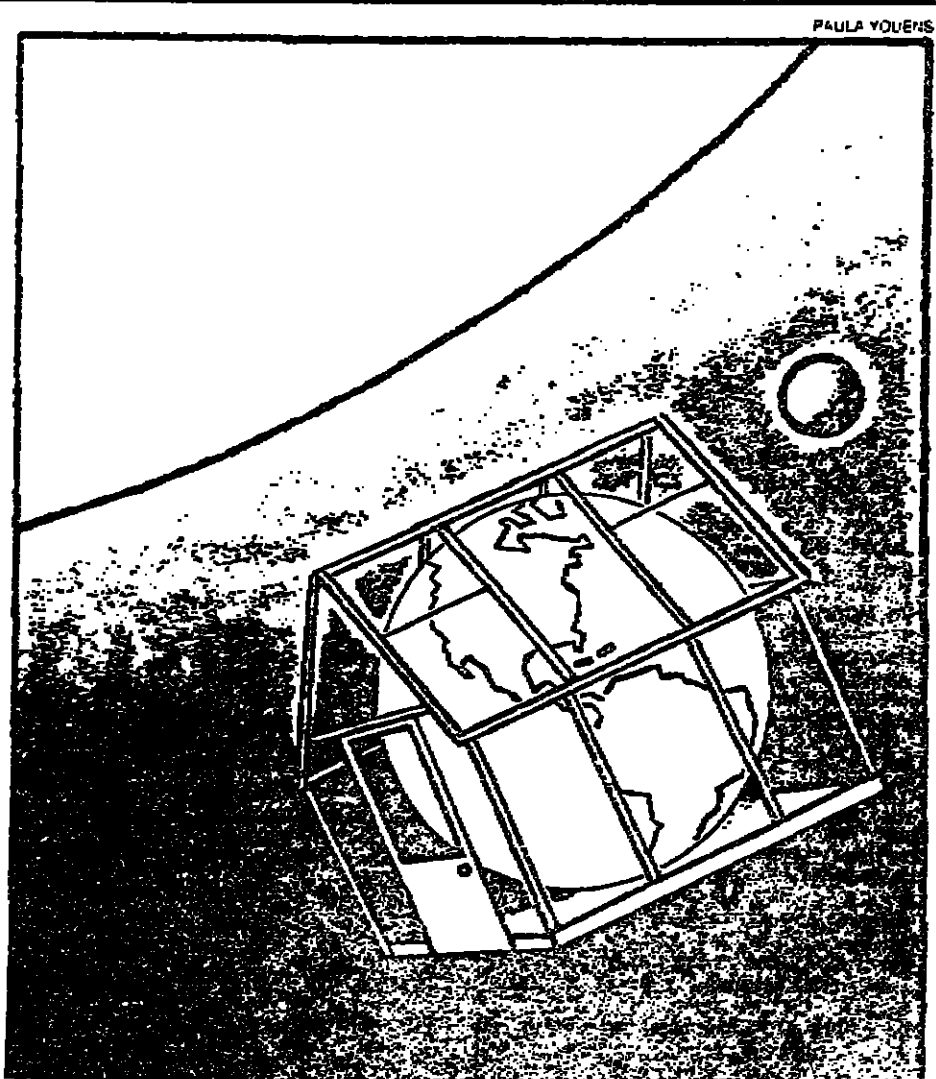
Comrade Budyko's contribution emphasized one outsider's conclusion: that it is not that the abused planet lacks a voice but that it has too many shouting discordantly on its behalf. Represented here at the highest level were organizations, think-tanks, departments, ministries, laboratories and agencies of a score of nations, the research units of dozens of universities and academies of science.

What they have in common is a budget for research for some aspect of the most complex problem ever to face mankind... and a demand that somewhere, someone else should soon, please, arrive at some certainties.

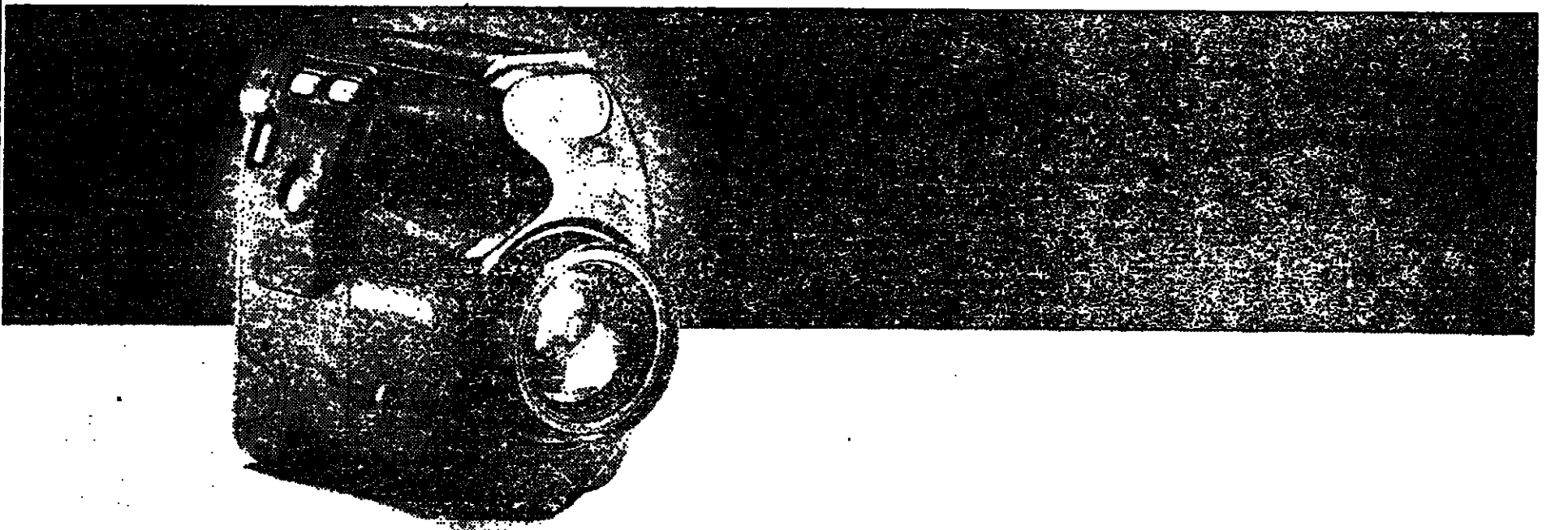
A case for a single global agency to co-ordinate this much-duplicated research seems inarguable, but this will not be made in Hamburg.

The Hamburg Manifesto to be pronounced at today's congress will contain nothing beyond reiteration and piety. But more encouraging was the insistence of a senior American academic: "We are on the move," he said. "Political awareness is snowballing, even though we can't give them all the answers — because they've woken up to the fact that by the time we have the answers it will be too late."

We need to believe this, because authoritative argument about which door to flee through does not mean it is safe to sit about doing nothing when the roof is already well ablaze.



THE SAMURAI. THE ONE THE JAPANESE CAMERA PRESS ARE ALL BOWING TO.



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by shooting at up to 2 seconds in very low light with the flash turned off. And talking of flash, they didn't remain in the dark about that either. They tried it on auto-flash. They tried it on a slow shutter speed flash, just to see how much of the background really was covered. In fact, every feature of the Samurai — from the 3 frame continuous self-timer through to the dioptr adjustable SLR viewfinder and auto-spot metering came in for scrutiny. And, we're pleased to report, Japan's camera press found the Samurai to be this year's most outstanding new camera. A camera fully deserving of their coveted 'Grand Prix'. Yet amazingly, the Samurai costs just £200. Which is around £50 less than the next best thing.

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Hit or Amis?

Astute readers of Kingsley Amis's new selection of English verse, *The Amis Anthology*, have been surprised to discover that Mr Amis has seen fit to "improve" one 17th-century poem, adding a rhyming triplet of his own.

"Kingsley just thought the poem needed a little help," his publishers have explained. "You see, it wasn't clear enough."

But devotees of Mr Amis's particular brand of grumpiness and misogyny may well wish that he had given "a little help" to a great many poems. They will be pleased to hear that next Christmas will see the publication of *The Amis Reworking of English Verse*, in which commonsense and old fashioned values shine forth, all aided by the distinctive Amis tone. One verse greatly helped by his treatment is "Adlestrop".

No. I don't remember Adlestrop one bit, I can't remember everything, you know. No doubt it was full of architects and women, All with Arts Council grants in tow.

Similarly, a foreshortened and much improved "Daftodils" is given a new lease of life, with much of its soppy sentimentality removed. I wander'd lonely as a cloud, That floats on high o'er vales and hills. When all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daftodils; "Not them, again," I thought, "horrid yellow things." And pushed off.

Lord Byron, too, greatly benefits from Amis's help: So, we'll go no more a-roving, So late into the night, Because the pubs are full of shoving, And the barmaid looks a fright.

In the reworked "Lake Isle of Innisfree" only scholars will be able to distinguish the vision of Yeats from the vision of Amis: I will arise and go now, and be leaving Innisfree, With its chicken-in-the-basket of glue and rubber made, Nine supermarkets full of ghostly pre-packed Brue, And pubs full of oikish blokes in trade.

Shakespeare's sonnets, too, are much improved by Amis's more realistic and down-to-earth approach to women: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more flea-ridden and just as sticky. And, as a woman, you do go on and on. I'll swap thee for a pint, far less tricky.

At the moment, Mr Amis is giving all the help he can to Coleridge's *Rime of the An-*



CRAIG BROWN

cient Mariner. "Cut a lot of the guff out," he explains. "For instance, that line about 'Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink': I add in a bottle of Scotch, and the poem comes to a merciful close a couple of lines later."

For any of the younger generation of Conservative MPs to gain advancement, it has become obligatory to make a public denunciation of the Sixties, an era which was, coincidentally, the period of their youth. With their close-cropped hair and shiny, enthusiastic cheeks, they must be seen to pooh-pooh any association with that decade of the permissive society.

The latest witness for the prosecution against the Sixties is Kenneth Baker, who believes that it was "that great time of do your own thing, let it all hang out and the four-letter word".

Aged 26 at the beginning of the Sixties, Mr Baker founded a barber shop quartet to counteract the influence of the Beatles, playing hit songs such as Love Me Don't, followed up by No Help, a diatribe against the dependency culture.

In 1967 he organized the alternative Woodstock Festival in a drawing room in Oxfordshire. Billed as "three days of sheer hard work and above-board decency", it featured a "freak-in" with Mr Norman Fowler. "To those who say 'let it all hang out,'" declared Mr Baker, "we say, 'put it back this minute'."

In 1969, Baker battled against Scott Mackenzie's hymn to San Francisco (Be Sure To Wear Some Flowers In Your Hair), by recording his own song of praise to Haslemere (Be Sure To Wear A Bowler Hat). "And if you're going to Haslemere," ran the second verse, "you're going to meet some thoroughly pleasant types who aren't afraid of a hard day's slog."

In the passage between the retiring-room and the drawing-room was an object which attracted Her Majesty's eye — a chandelier, lent to the corporation by the Goldsmith's Company, composed of solid chased gold, weighing 1,000 ounces . . .

In the course of the evening Mr. Thomas Dighton, an artist, was permitted to enter to take a drawing of the scene, with the company as they appeared at the banquet, from which an engraving is to be taken . . .



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

SAFETY BELOW STAIRS

The fire at King's Cross Underground Station on November 18, 1987, is remembered from descriptions given by survivors as a scene from Dante's *Inferno*. Fire below ground is the nightmare of every Underground user. That evening, for a few, it became reality.

A total of 31 people died; more were injured, many of them horribly. Some who narrowly escaped injury will suffer psychological effects for years, perhaps for ever. The London Underground system, which was respected not just as the oldest, but also as one of the safest of the world's transport systems, has seen its reputation irreparably damaged.

Only hours before the report of the public inquiry into the disaster was published yesterday, the fire claimed two more victims. Sir Keith Bright, the Chairman of London Regional Transport, and Dr Tony Ridley, the Chairman of London Underground, submitted their resignations.

Sir Keith had offered to resign on the night of the fire, but had been asked to stay on until the inquiry was complete. Now the findings of the inquiry are public, his resignation has been accepted. The report criticizes both him and Dr Ridley for a misapprehension of their responsibilities and, in Dr Ridley's case, for underestimating the risk of fire.

Their resignations were appropriate as a matter of honour — something rare in public life today. They also allow a new senior management team to take over — the very least that is needed to restore public confidence in the Underground service. But their departure holds risks.

In the first place, London Transport has been deprived of two particularly well qualified executives. Sir Keith has pioneered policies of high efficiency, service to customers and involvement of the private sector on London Transport which should soon bear fruit. Dr Ridley is an underground railway engineer of world renown. In the second place, their resignations might prompt the erroneous conclusion that they alone can be held responsible for the disaster. This could have the lamentable effect that the very many other points made in the report of the public inquiry will not receive the attention they deserve.

Regrettably, the political recriminations have already begun. Sir Keith's resignation and the report's criticism of London Regional Transport have been greeted in some quarters as criticism of the Government's policies towards London and towards transport. Some have called for the scalp of the Transport Secretary for not placing safety at the head of his brief for the chairman of LRT when that body was set up.

With hindsight, this was an unfortunate political omission, but it reflected more the presumption that safety standards would be observed than that they could be sacrificed. As the report shows, LRT made the observance of safety a condition of any cost-saving measures. The accusations are misplaced. It is to the

credit of the inquiry chairman, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, that the political background and the simmering disputes about the nature of London Transport are addressed when necessary, but nowhere allowed to obscure the central question.

The purpose of the public inquiry into the King's Cross fire, as of any public inquiry, was not to find scapegoats — political or otherwise — but to uncover what happened on the night of November 18 and to ensure so far as possible that nothing similar can happen in future.

That, it does. While giving the most likely cause of the fire as a lighted match dropped through a gap in a poorly-maintained escalator, the report gives a damning picture of the workings of the London Underground, and of King's Cross Station in particular. Staff at all levels are said to have underestimated the risk from fire. Emergency provision and arrangements for co-ordinating the different services — fire, police, transport police and station staff — are shown to have been woefully inadequate.

Top managers, the report says, accepted small fires as inevitable and did little to prevent them. They concentrated instead on the hazards of congestion and crime on the Underground. Station staff, many of whom had no qualifications and little sense of personal responsibility, were deemed to have imbibed an ethos of safety without being given any systematic safety training. The response to the fire was, the report says, "unco-ordinated, haphazard and untrained".

In another recognition of the political background, the report found no evidence that more staff or more money would have prevented what began as a small fire beneath an escalator from flaring up as it did. Given the poor standards of maintenance, lack of staff supervision, unclear line management, and difficulties in internal communication, the King's Cross fire emerges from the inquiry as an accident waiting to happen.

The report of the inquiry into the King's Cross fire was all that such a report should be. It was clear in presentation, meticulous in detail, and specific in its recommendations. The scientific value of the inquiry's research into how a small fire became in seconds a fatal "flashover" should help to further knowledge about the behaviour of fire in confined spaces.

Recommendations include the installation of smoke detectors, the replacement of flammable building materials, proper maintenance of escalators, regular and rigorous safety training for Underground staff, and co-ordinated emergency planning. Perhaps the most far-reaching recommendation is the proposal for a safety "audit" to be conducted along the lines of a financial audit. The greatest compliment that can be paid to Mr Fennell and the greatest consolation to the injured and bereaved, is that the recommendations are acted on without delay.

GULF APPROACHES

After eight years of strain, relations between this country and Iran approached breaking point last year when a British diplomat was badly beaten up in Tehran. The re-forging of full diplomatic links, announced yesterday, reflects a heartening change of mood in Iran and the vicissitudes of power politics.

Of the multifarious advantages which proceed from the move, one must be the enhanced opportunity for commerce. Anglo-Iranian trade has never completely stopped, despite the conflicting pressures placed on it. Britain sold over £300 million worth of goods to Iran last year (despite the deterioration in relations) and bought only about £187 million worth in return. But a decade ago, before Tehran's revolution, Britain was exporting more than double that amount.

This included military equipment for the Shah — a trade which will not be resumed in the very near future. There are said to be no immediate plans to reopen the Iranian arms-procurement office in London and the ban which Britain imposed on weapons sales to both sides during the Gulf War, still obtains.

But the potential for bilateral trade remains considerable. Despite Iran's shortage of cash during the war, it has emerged with less crippling debts than has its adversary — which borrowed heavily from its Arab neighbours to support its war effort.

Iran's strategic position, lying as it does between the Gulf and the Soviet Union, has always made it of interest to the West. Britain and the United States consciously helped to build up the Shah as a regional surrogate. That is one reason why this country, even after last year's diplomatic confrontation, has never completely severed its relationship with the Khomeini regime.

It would be unrealistic also to ignore the plight of the three British hostages in Lebanon. The Government has always refused to treat

with terrorists — or with those offering to intercede on their behalf. But, as the Archbishop of Canterbury pointed out yesterday, the resumption of a dialogue between London and Tehran should help progress towards these hostages' release.

At the same time, Iran has shown an increasing desire to end its diplomatic isolation. Not only has it resumed relations with both Canada and France in recent months, but it has also made indirect overtures to Moscow.

Iran's relations with the Soviet Union, with which it shares a 1,000-mile frontier, fluctuated during the Gulf War according to the enthusiasm of Moscow's military support for Iraq. Five years ago they reached a nadir when Tehran crushed its own communist Tudeh Party. In recent months however, Tehran has been showing towards the Soviet Union, as towards Western countries, a desire to return to something like normality.

Britain is now the only European country without a working diplomatic mission in Tehran. With the ceasefire in the Gulf War and the settlement of the long-standing dispute between London and Tehran over damage to their respective embassies, the way is clear for progress to be made.

But that progress should be cautious. Tehran will have to wait to reopen its consulate in Manchester, for instance (it was the arrest of an employee of that consulate which precipitated the diplomatic crisis a year ago), and full ambassadors will not be exchanged for six months. While its "anti-imperialist" invective has subsided, the Khomeini regime remains volatile, difficult to deal with and potentially unreliable.

The progress made so far has been achieved by patient diplomacy from a position of strength. It is by this same route, not by over-hasty action, that a satisfactory relationship may finally be resumed.

Back to year dot

From Mr Adrian Room
Sir, I'm afraid that Professor Stuart Piggott (November 8) is not quite right in saying that the *anno mundi* (creation of the world) dating of the Russian calendar persisted until the revolution.

The former Byzantine dating was introduced in Russia exactly 1,000 years ago, in 988, when Prince Vladimir Svyatoslavovich converted to Christianity and it was determined that the creation of the world had occurred 5,508 years before the birth of Christ. The year 988 was thus 6496, according to this reckoning.

This system lasted until 1700 (1708), when Peter the Great introduced the Christian "AD" calendar. The only further change to the Russian calendar was made in 1918, when the country changed from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian, as England had already done in 1752.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROOM,
173 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

Efficient firefighters

From Mr D. Robertson-Macdonald
Sir, At a time when public services and young men are criticised from all sides I hope you will publish this tribute. I am sure it could apply equally to all this country's fire brigades.

On Sunday, October 30, five appliances — two from Bognor Regis, two from Littlehampton, and one from Arundel — answered a 999 call to a blaze in the thatched roof of our cottage.

The cheerful courtesy and kindness shown by every one of the 30 or so young men involved was an inspiration and example to us all. Our furniture and other belongings were carefully piled in the middle bedroom and sitting room and covered with plastic sheets, with the result that none of our possessions were damaged.

Thank is probably one of the most difficult types of fire to deal with because the flames spread so fast. The fact that less than half of ours was destroyed is great tes-

timony to the efficiency of the firemen, to their officers, and to their training. We are truly grateful.

Yours faithfully,
D. ROBERTSON-MACDONALD,
The Twelfth of Never,
Church Lane, Yaptom,
Arundel, West Sussex.

Humble servants

From Mr J. S. Cutress
Sir, When we were in China recently we were delighted to visit the "Humble Administrator's Garden" at Suchow. We have thought about this delightful title and wonder if it could be applied here.

What about the "Humble Inland Revenue Tax Collector", to remind him that we are his customers and not his minions? Perhaps there are other titles that might improve the attitude of "bureaucrats in power".

Yours humbly,
JOHN CUTRESS,
69 The Droveaway,
Hove, East Sussex.

Lack of balance feared if IBA goes

From Professor Huw Morris-Jones and others

Sir, The White Paper on Broadcasting (report, November 8) proposes to abolish the Independent Broadcasting Authority in its present form and to create another body with different and weaker powers in its place. We consider this to be a deplorable proposal and believe that it will have a damaging effect on the whole of British broadcasting.

It should be realised that the IBA (formerly the ITA) was originally set up by a Conservative Government to break the monopoly of the BBC by providing an alternative method of financing and producing television programmes. The result has been the creation of a uniquely British blend of freedom and control which, in both the BBC and ITV, has achieved a variety and general standard of excellence in television programmes which we now take for granted and which can legitimately be considered to be one of this country's major successes.

The contribution of the IBA to this record is distinguished and honourable. It has achieved a balance between commercial interests and regard for wider social responsibilities; it has combined regional enterprise with the claims of a national and public service; it has provided a schedule of high-

rating popular programmes with others which cater for a variety of minorities in such diverse fields as education, religion, and current affairs. This balance could easily be destroyed if, for example, franchises were allocated solely by means of an auction to the highest bidder.

In maintaining this balance the authority has acquired a body of expert knowledge and professional skills which it would be foolish to cast aside as of no significance.

The signatories to this letter have been members of the IBA and can therefore draw on their personal experience of its operations. We were appointed by Conservative and Labour home secretaries; we differed in our regional origins, occupational backgrounds and political views. Nevertheless, we believe that the abolition of the IBA would be an irretrievable loss.

Yours faithfully,
HUW MORRIS-JONES,
SHIRLEY ANGLESEY,
BLAISE,
TONY CHRISTOPHER,
JULIET JOWITT,
JILL McIVOR,
W. J. MORRIS,
A. J. R. MORRIS,
MARY WARRNOCK,
Ceredigion, Penarth Road,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd,
November 9.

Hospice needs

From Mr Norman A. Darby

Sir, Dr Searle (November 5) pleaded the case for Government help towards the annual running costs of hospices. Some of us who are managing hospices are appalled about this cry for help and believe it could be counter-productive.

The hospice movement has established a unique place in public affection as a cause worth supporting generously. This is not solely because the care given to patients is special and much appreciated, but also because almost all hospices are maintained without charge to patients or their relatives.

Furthermore, many hospices are entirely financed through local fund-raising and the community is

aware that its support is depended upon and know there is no prescribed Government subsidy.

Those hospices which find they cannot raise all the money necessary for their survival know they can seek grants from their local health authorities, who are already empowered to help. Regular Government financing, in my view, would inevitably be accompanied by some form of imposed management control and a reduction in money provided by supporters in the community. Hospices have flourished through the enthusiasm and enterprise of volunteers and local initiatives. This independence is surely worth preserving.

NORMAN A. DARBY,
18 Lawn Road, Staplegrave,
Taunton, Somerset,
November 8.

Prince and architects

From Mr Anthony Southall

Sir, To be fair to the planning officer faced with a difficult judgement, to recommend his committee either to refuse or grant planning permission for development that may offend the tastes of the public, but in terms of land use is unobjectionable, the advice of the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, given at the Town and Country Summer Planning School in 1979 and now incorporated in the guidance given to planning authorities in the department's circular 22/80, should not be overlooked. He said that

Far too many of those involved in the system — whether planning officer or amateur on the planning committee — have tried to impose their standards quite unnecessarily on what individuals want to do... Democracy as a system of government I will defend against all comers, but as an arbiter of taste or as a judge of aesthetic or artistic standards it falls far short of a far less controlled system of individual, corporate, or institutional patronage or initiative.

The circular goes on to state that local planning authorities should

only exceptionally control design details if the sensitive character of the area or the particular building justifies it, but that

They should be closely guided in such matters by their professionally-qualified advisers. This is especially important where a building has been designed by an architect for a particular site.

To contend with the building's architect, the professionally-qualified adviser has likewise to be a member of that profession. The circular states that planning authorities should not impose their tastes on developers simply because they believe them to be superior.

Is the Prince suggesting that the circular is wrong? If so, may we enquire what "arbiter of taste or judge of aesthetic or artistic standards" must enter the system of land-use control that has, as a whole, worked very well since its inception in the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947?

A. P. SOUTHALL, Director,
Anthony Southall (Consultants) Limited,
36 Stockwell Road, Tottenham,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
November 3.

Worcester Cathedral

From Mr Kenneth F. Wiltshire

Sir, May I reply, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral, to Mr Hopkins's implication (November 4) of a lack of general maintenance. A sum well in excess of £50,000 per annum has been spent on upkeep and maintenance for many years.

Whilst leaves and other debris are regularly cleared from the gutters, it has yet not been possible to renew worn lead or to repair failed fixings and joints on downpipes at high level.

The problems shown in the television programme, *What Price the House of God?*, have been building up for years and the Chapter are now addressing them in a comprehensive and economic manner. The cathedral is perfectly safe.

Yours faithfully,
K. WILTSHIRE
(Cathedral architect),
The Sarum Partnership,
De Vaux House,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
November 9.

Knees, please

From Miss Gillian Robinson

Sir, Genued knees (letters, November 1, 4, 7) are not confined to little girls, little boys, or school playgrounds, as I found to my chagrin on the way to work this morning. No need for thick skirts or tights in Hong Kong's sunny autumn months, and a missed footing on steep concrete steps wrought as much havoc with unprotected knees as any playground misadventure.

However, the sight of such abrasions is, I suspect, rather more commonplace in the classroom than in the sedate depths of a solicitor's office.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN ROBINSON,
C3 6/F Arts Mansion,
31 Conduit Road, Hong Kong,
November 9.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Wider scrutiny of foreign affairs

From the Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, David Hart's article (November 4) proposing an independent Foreign Affairs Unit is unlikely to attract much support in Whitehall, but in my view doesn't go far enough.

The Ministry of Defence is in many ways the handmaiden of the Foreign Office and if you accept the point that our foreign policy does not reflect the changes brought about in Mrs Thatcher's Britain you will probably have noticed that our defence strategy and priorities have also been stuck in the mould of the 1970s. Post the Falklands campaign in 1982, a Defence White Paper used the words "the many useful lessons we have learned... do not invalidate the policy...".

Politically, defence affairs in the late 1980s only have a high profile in the nuclear argument which represents a very small percentage of the annual expenditure on the Armed Forces. The Commons Defence Committee does its best, but broadly speaking the bulk of the money is allocated without public debate and in line with the often narrow prejudice of Foreign Office-inspired internationalism, which seems to have some difficulty recognising national instincts and which has yet again been so well illuminated in the reported conflict with the Prime Minister's carefully-balanced statements on Europe in 1992.

So let's have an independent Defence Policy Unit as well, one which is more responsive to current British politics, takes a fresh look at the balance of investment in our various contributions to Nato, is able to discuss the merits of some adjustment between national and Alliance priorities, and is less dependent on attitudes assumed during the years of decline.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE, Editor,
Jane's Fighting Ships,
Foundry House, Kingsley,
Bordon, Hampshire,
November 5.

From the Director of the Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies

Sir, Just as a goldfish in a bowl lacks the means to judge the limits of his universe, the want of an

adequate external frame of reference may mean that the Foreign Secretary (November 7) is not the best qualified person to assess whether he is a prisoner of "a hermetically-sealed world" (his phrase). For this reason he may have overlooked the substantial measure of truth in David Hart's complaint that the environment in which foreign policy is shaped is narrow, restrictive, and inward-looking.

Whether or not there is such a thing as a "Foreign Office view" which generally prevails, it is evident that there are a number of common perceptions and assumptions, amounting to a *deformation professionelle* which has somehow survived changes of foreign secretary and even government. Certainly, such an outlook has been left largely undisturbed by Thatcherism, for there has been no serious attempt to "Thatcherise" the foreign-policy process (if Thatcherism be defined as a fundamental reappraisal of policy based on unsentimental notions of national interest).

As a result, the faults which a number of critics have perceived in policy formulation remain unchanged. These include a tendency to place an excessive faith in diplomacy as the key to all problems; a readiness to believe that the Soviet Union is either a conventional power or on the brink of becoming so if properly tutored and can be treated as such; a tendency to play down the significance of ideology; a recurrent failure to find effective means to respond to acts of Soviet deception (especially since the closure of the FO's information and research department); a willingness to take "Third Worldist" causes seriously when common sense and the national interest dictate otherwise, and a propensity to treat the Commonwealth as a serious and important entity.

The creation of new institutions may help overcome such weaknesses, but major change must depend first and foremost on political will.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD FROST, Director,
Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies,
13/14 Golden Square, W1,
November 8.

Student loans

From Mr S. L. Bragg, FENG

Sir, Several recent commentators have suggested that the introduction of loans to students breaches a principle of the Robbins report on higher education, namely that subsidised university education should be available for all those capable of benefiting from it. But it was the earlier committee, chaired by Sir Colin Anderson, that advocated a policy of wider subsidy. In chapter 5 of *Higher Education Revisited*, published in 1980, Lord Robbins made clear that his report simply set out the arguments for and against subsidies or loans without

committing itself to a conclusion. My own inclination tended definitely against the policy of subsidy...

In his book Lord Robbins then went on to recommend the Prest plan, whereby loan repayments should be required only if subsequent earnings surpassed a figure which made repayment possible.

Rereading what Lord Robbins actually said might provide more ammunition for the advocates of loans than for their adversaries.

Yours faithfully,
S. L. BRAGG,
22 Brookside, Cambridge,
November 5.

Trial by jury

From Mr G. G. Campbell

Sir, In support of the proposition that the composition of juries has no significant effect on the acquittal rate Professor Michael Zander (November 8) cites a study which showed a conviction rate following the use of peremptory challenge higher than in cases where there were no challenges.

Common sense suggests that the right of challenge is most likely to be exercised when the case against the accused is so strong that defending counsel knows that, unless he can secure a favourable jury, the chances of acquittal are slim. Unless appropriate allowance can be made for this factor, the statistics quoted are meaningless.

Yours faithfully,
G. G. CAMPBELL,
3 Clovelly Avenue,
Warrington, Surrey,
November 8.

Shadow of time

From Dr Stephen M. Moss

Sir, Mr Nicholas Martin's proposal (October 28) to advance the clocks by a half-hour is a step in the wrong direction.

It is clear to me, having lived in both London and New York, that the clocks in England should be set back by five hours so that baseball and American football games in New York could be broadcast live in London at a reasonable time.

Nobody would ever have to get up in the dark, and a winter sunset at 11 a.m. would be only a minor inconvenience.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN M. MOSS,
9 Midland Gardens,
Brixtonville,
New York 10708, USA,
November 2.

In terms of future

From Dr John Stabler

Sir, Philip Howard's article (November 1) on the terminology of dates prompts the question as to what we should call the years of the next millennium.

The terms "two thousand and one" and "two thousand and ten" have become well established, but "twenty one" and "twenty ten" are less clumsy and follow the traditional form. Why do we not adopt them?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STABLER,
The Red House,
Church Street,
North Creak,
Fakenham, Norfolk,
November 1.

Honouring the dead

From the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Military School of Music

Sir, In response to Mr Ivor Herne's letter (November 5), I would be grateful if you would allow me the opportunity of putting the record straight.

We at Kneller Hall introduced a small charge to cover out-of-pocket expenses and insurance premiums as these could not be covered by the public purse for this type of engagement. The policy of raising a standard charge also allowed those Royal British Legion branches that had previously provided a gratuity to cease that practice, and this possibly saved some embarrassment.

The small charge goes directly to the individual battery/trumpeter after deductions for insurance, and Kneller Hall receives nothing. We are honoured and delighted to accept these duty commitments and keep the costs to a minimum.

Yours etc.,
D. R. P. LEWIS,
Colonel Commandant,
Royal Military School of Music,
Kneller Hall,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
November 10.

Ellipsis slip

From Mrs Marjorie Wild

Sir, Mr Phillips (November 7) wonders whether readers can identify maxima which, given a change of a single word, might promote other causes.

Some years ago I helped to organise a series of children's quizzes and one round consisted of well-known proverbs needing to be completed. One youngster asked to finish "As cool as a..." came out with "a mountain stream".

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE WILD,
7 Abbots Close, Highcliff,
Christchurch, Dorset,
November 7.

From Mr J. R. Williams
Sir, My sister at the age of five in war-time London announced sadly: "One swallow does not make a summer".

Yours faithfully,
J. R. WILLIAMS,
61 Murray Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
November 7.

From Mrs Peg Massey
Sir, I always rather liked, "A friend in need is a bloody nuisance!"

Yours,
PEG MASSEY,
129 Blenheim Crescent, W11,
November 7.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The President of the Republic of Senegal received the Lord Selkirk (Midland Bank PLC), the Right Hon. Sir Michael Palfrey (Samuel Montagu & Co. Ltd) and Mr. David Libon (Economic Adviser to the Senegalese Government) at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The President of the Republic of Senegal and Madame Abdou Diouf visited Oxford University this morning and were received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsford, Bt) and the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir Patrick Neill).

Their Excellencies visited the Ashmolean Museum (Director, Dr. C.J. White) and afterwards the Bodleian Library (Librarian, Mr. D. Vaisry).

The President of the Republic of Senegal and Madame Abdou Diouf then attended a reception in the Codrington Library and afterwards were entertained at luncheon by the Vice-Chancellor of the University in the Hall of All Souls College.

Their Excellencies this afternoon visited the Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford and were received by the Chairman, Natural Environment Research Council (Professor John Kail), the Director of the Institute (Professor Brian Wilkinson) and the Director of the British Geological Survey (Mr. Geoffrey Larmine).

The President of the Republic of Senegal later received the Right Hon. Nigel Lawson, M.P. (Chancellor of the Exchequer) at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. Nigel Williams was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen.

Mr. John Caines (Permanent Secretary, Overseas Development Administration) had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

Admiral Sir Derek Empson had the honour of being received by the Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at a banquet this evening by the President of the Republic of Senegal and Madame Abdou Diouf at the Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, London SW1.

The Duchess of Grafton and the Right Hon. Sir William Heseltine were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, this morning presented the prizes to the winners of the ESL English Language Competition and subsequently chaired a meeting of the English Language Committee at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Captain General Royal Marines, attended a luncheon for the Colonels Commandant of the Royal Marines at Admiralty House, London SW1.

Captain James Fraser was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand

Anniversaries

Births: Johann Albert Fabricius, scholar, Leipzig, 1688; Louis de Bourgainville, navigator and scientist, Paris, 1729; Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Moscow, 1821; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of Pointillism, Paris, 1863; Edouard Vuillard, painter, Cluses, France, 1868.

Deaths: Johann Zoffany, theatrical painter, London, 1810; Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher, Copenhagen, 1855; Ned Kelly, outlaw, hanged, Melbourne, 1880.

The Allies and Germany signed an armistice at 11am 1918. The first two-minute silence commemorating the Great War was observed, 1919.

Flower Power Ball

After dinner tickets are still available for The Flower Power Ball at The Camden Palace, London, NW1, on Monday, November 21, in aid of The Wishful Well Appeal. Single tickets are £50 each and include champagne, wine and breakfast. Non-stop entertainment and dancing to Marty Wilde & the Wilde Cats, Hair Revival, Mike Berry, Albert Lee & Hogan's Heroes, and Simon Dee until 2am. Marvellous prizes to be won including a Peugeot 405 and holidays. Please apply to Miss Jane Heald, 4th Floor, 48 Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH, 01-242 8014.

SCIENCE REPORT

Feathered family planning

The number of chicks that birds rear is not arbitrary: it is usually exactly the number they can best cope with. This is confirmed by R.A. Pettifor and colleagues from the University of Oxford who describe their work in the current issue of *Nature*.

From a close study of great tits *Parus major* in an Oxfordshire wood, the researchers have found important clues as to how birds plan their families. Their findings may appear self-evident, but they prove only one of two principal ideas that theorists have used to explain why birds of the same species lay different numbers of eggs.

According to this theory, birds rear precisely as many fledglings as will have a good chance of surviving - neither more, nor less. If they rear too many chicks, some will suffer because the carrying capacities of the parents have been oversteered; rearing too few will waste the potential of the parents. But some research seems to show that birds limit the number of chicks they raise, with their own health in mind, not that of the chicks.

According to this second theory, birds rear as many chicks as they can without compromising their own health or future fertility.

The only way to test these theories is to watch what happens when eggs are added or removed from the nests of breeding birds. This kind of study necessarily extends over many years, because what is being tested is the progress of chicks from hatchlings to mature birds, in relation to the numbers and life histories of their brothers and sisters. Parent birds must also be closely observed, to see whether family size has an effect on their fortunes.

By altering the numbers of eggs in great tit nests this number normally varies between 5 and 13), Pettifor and colleagues were able to show that the first theory wins. Parent birds allowed to rear their own clutch size, without addition or subtraction, raised the most fledglings to maturity.

But even if induced to raise larger clutches than usual, parent birds were no more likely to die or suffer reduced fecundity than birds raising their optimum number of chicks.

These results echo similar research on the collared flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* by William J. Sutherland of the University of East Anglia and Lars Gustafsson of the University of Uppsala in Sweden, writing in *Nature* on October 27. The researchers studied an isolated population of this distinctive black-and-white bird on the island of Gotland in the Baltic.

Like great tits, collared flycatcher parents tend to raise the number of chicks that they can comfortably manage. By experimentally manipulating brood sizes over the course of a seven year research programme, Gustafsson and Sutherland found that birds could take a few more chicks on board, but larger clutches contained smaller, lighter chicks that were less likely to survive to maturity and become parents themselves.

Those that did survive tended to lay fewer eggs. And in contrast to great tits, collared flycatcher mothers suffered reduced fecundity after having to raise more chicks than usual, although in both studies, females did not suffer increased mortality.

The differences in detail between the two studies highlight the fact that birds have different ways of doing things, reflected in the numbers of eggs they lay, the size of their families, and their response when either of these is manipulated by an experimenter. What is true for one species may not be as evident in another: for example, while nest manipulation has no effect on whether parent flycatchers or great tits live or die, other studies show that the reverse is true for other species, such as the blue tit *Parus caeruleus*.

Henry Gee

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.A. Bradley and Miss J. Adams
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R. Bradley, of Humstret, Bath, and Jill, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Adams, of Bideford, Devon.

Mr M.F. Callcott and Miss V.J. Hunt
The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of Mr F.D. Callcott and of Mrs P.D. Reeve, of Plymouth, and Vanessa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.E. Hunt, of Tenerife.

Mr R.D.R. Clark and Miss C.E. Pawsey
The engagement is announced between Rory, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Clark, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Carol, daughter of Mr A.J. Pawsey, of Cavendish, Suffolk, and Mrs J.K. Pawsey, of Lavenham, Suffolk.

Mr M.W. Costelloe and Miss C. Lawrence
The engagement is announced between Martin Winston, second son of Mr and Mrs J. Costelloe, and Charmaine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Lawrence, of Patcham, Sussex.

Mr R.W. Cowell and Miss C.J. Lawson Johnston
The engagement is announced between Roger William, only son of Mr and Mrs E.R. Cowell, of Cambridge, and Caroline, daughter of Mrs Arthur Lawson Johnston, of Odell Manor, Bedfordshire.

Mr J.E. England and Miss C.D. Cox
The engagement is announced between John Edward, son of Mr and Mrs J.R. England, of Court, Shropshire, and Claire Davina, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.B. Cox, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Mr M. Neges and Miss H.G. Luna
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs A. Neges, of Westminster, Essex, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Luna, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr P.J. Forbes and Mrs S.J. Webster
The engagement is announced between Peter Robert, eldest son of Mr George Forbes, London, and Mrs S.J. Webster, of Wiltshire, and Susan Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence Bliss, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dame Elizabeth Coker OBE DL will be held in Chelmsford Cathedral in Essex, on Tuesday, November 29, at 2.30 pm.

Mr M.S. Green and Miss F.C. Briggs
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr K. Green, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Miss F.C. Briggs, of New Ulston, London, and Emma Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs H.G. Briggs, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr G. Hill and Miss T. Norton
The engagement is announced between Mr and Mrs J. Norton, of Wiltshire, and Tracy, their eldest daughter, Tracy, to Mr Gardiner Hill, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. Hill, of Batigate, Edinburgh.

Mr S.C. Horsey and Miss J. Tomkinson
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Terry Horsey, of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, and the late Sheila Horsey, to Annie-Louise (Lulu) Tomkinson, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Tomkinson, of Middle Haverley, Kidderminster.

Mr C.J. Moore and Miss E.M. Hampson
The marriage takes place on November 12, at St Michael's Church, Wolverhampton, of Christopher James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Moore, and Eira Monica, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hampson, all of Wolverhampton.

Mr J. Farnham and Miss C. Dallas
The engagement is announced between Jo Farnham and Claire, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs R. Dallas, of Reading.

Mr R.J. Phillips and Miss D.M. Jennings
The engagement is announced between Richard John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Phillips, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, and Diana Margaret, daughter of Lieutenant-Commander Eric Jennings, of Normandy, Surrey.

Mr R.A. Oosted and Miss S.C. O'Connor
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr R. Oosted, of Cathcart Road, London, SE10, and Mrs S.C. O'Connor, of Wiltshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr A.M. O'Connor and the late Mrs G.M. O'Connor, of Picketts Cottage, Salfrons, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will dine with the Speaker at Speaker's House at 8.10.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chairman of the Tiger Club Down to Dusk Competition, will chair a meeting of the judges at Buckingham Palace at 10.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as Honorary Colonel of The Royal Yeomanry, will lunch with the officers at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 12.35 to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the formation of the regiment.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the Darnley Street Family Project, 175 Darnley Street, East Pollockshields, Glasgow, at 10.25, and will open the new swimming bath and leisure centre at Broad Meadow, Dumfries, at 12.00. She will visit Polaris (UK), Strathleven Industrial Estate, at 2.25, and attend the opening of a new development of flats at 4.15.

The British Association of Sports and Medicine's Congress 1988 at the Gleneagles Hotel at 5.20. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, as patron, will open a new development of flats at 5.45 and the elderly and disabled at the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation, 446 Fulham Road, at 3.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Inner Cities and Urban Regeneration Conference at the Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, at 10.45.

Princess Michael of Kent will open the Caravan Camping and Holiday Show at Earl's Court at 11.00.

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Birthdays today

Lord Carr of Hadley, 72; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 63; Lord Dainton, 74; Sir Arthur Davies, meteorologist, 75; Mr Ron Greenwood, former manager, English Football Team, 81.0; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, 58; Sir Martin Jacob, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 59; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, 68; Sir Harold Kent, QC, 85; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 41; Professor A.L. Mitchell, anatomist, 82; Dr Indraprastha Patel, director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 64; Mr Richard Rowe, jockey, 29; Mr John Sheffield, 75; Sir Peter Shephard, architect, 75.

Service Luncheon

The Royal Marines The Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, Captain General Royal Marines, was present at a luncheon for Colonels Commandant Royal Marines on November 10, 1988, in the Admiralty House, London. The Representative Colonel Commandant Major General R.J. Ephraums, CB, OBE, DL, presided. Guests included the Commandant General Royal Marines, Lieutenant General Sir Martin Garrod, KCB, OBE.

Dinners

4th (V) Bn, The Royal Green Jackets The annual dinner of the 4th (V) Bn, The Royal Green Jackets, was held last night at the Clothworkers' Hall. The Rt Hon Lord Holderness, Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, presided and The Rt Hon Lord Callaghan of Cardiff was the principal guest.

Army Board The Hon George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, presided at a dinner given by the Army Board last night at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Among those present were Lord Carr of Hadley, 72; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 63; Lord Dainton, 74; Sir Arthur Davies, meteorologist, 75; Mr Ron Greenwood, former manager, English Football Team, 81.0; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, 58; Sir Martin Jacob, deputy chairman, Barclays Bank, 59; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, 68; Sir Harold Kent, QC, 85; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 41; Professor A.L. Mitchell, anatomist, 82; Dr Indraprastha Patel, director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 64; Mr Richard Rowe, jockey, 29; Mr John Sheffield, 75; Sir Peter Shephard, architect, 75.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of O.M. (Bill) Forster will be held in Sedburgh School Chapel at 12.15 pm, on Saturday, December 10. All are welcome. Those intending to come are asked to write to the Second Master.

OBITUARIES

JOHN MITCHELL

Former US Attorney-General who was jailed over Watergate affair



John Mitchell, President Richard Nixon's Attorney-General from 1969 to 1972 who went to prison for his involvement in the Watergate scandal, died on November 9 at the age of 75.

Mitchell was one of the small group of men who built up a close personal and political relationship with President Nixon. As Attorney-General in Nixon's first administration, he was one of the most powerful men in Washington. But he later became engulfed in the flood of revelations and allegations which sprang from the Watergate affair, and like several others of Mr Nixon's close associates, found himself forced to answer for the way he had used his power.

Charges were brought against him in New York over a secret contribution of 200,000 dollars made by Mr Robert Vesco, a financier, to President Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972. Mitchell was accused of negotiating the contribution on the understanding that there would be an attempt to influence an investigation into Mr Vesco's affairs by the securities and exchange commission. He denied the charges and pleaded not guilty.

In Washington, accusations were made before the Senate Investigating Committee that he had not only approved the break-in at the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex, but had taken part in the cover-up attempt afterwards. The accusations were made by Mr Jeb Stuart Magruder, formerly the deputy director of the re-election committee. In reply, Mitchell maintained that he had heard of such plans, but had never approved them.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother-in-law, Mr Michael Younger, was attended by the Hon Zora Brasse, Victoria and Alexandra Younger, Henrietta and Anna Parr and Lady Sanyal. The best men were the Hon Nicholas Armstrong and Nicholas and William Pridemore-Brune.

A small reception was held at The Ritz.

commander of motor torpedo boats in the Pacific. One of his young officers was John F. Kennedy.

Mitchell's emergence on the political scene was entirely due to the rapport that he established with Mr Nixon in New York after their two law firms had merged in 1967. Before that, they had never met. Mr Nixon seems to have appreciated Mitchell's forcefulness, his organizing abilities, and his coolness in time of trouble. As a result, he put him in charge of his 1968 campaign and after the election persuaded him to become Attorney-General.

Mitchell was a tough-minded law officer. He laid his main emphasis on "law and order" - Nixon once declared: "He is the leader of our fight against lawlessness" - and made it clear that for him this included wire-tapping of potential trouble-makers, preventive detention of suspects, and firm policies towards dissenters on the university campuses. "The threat to our society from so-called 'domestic' subversion is as serious as any threat from abroad", he declared in a speech in June, 1971.

By that time, Mitchell was already embroiled with the courts over his wire-tapping policies - and much else. His view, which he gave in the early days of the administration, was that the government could use wire-taps without prior court approval if national security was threatened, even in cases involving domestic groups. But this was rejected successfully by several courts, and eventually by the Supreme Court in June, 1972.

He made other disputed decisions in 1971. Later in June, he obtained an injunction from the courts ordering the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* to stop publishing the Pentagon Papers, the secret report on how the United States had become involved in Vietnam. This was unprecedented in the United States, and the Supreme Court upheld the two newspapers when they took action against it.

NORMAN N. NEWHOUSE

Creation of American publishing empire

Norman N. Newhouse, who was involved in building up the Newhouse newspaper chain into one of America's largest publishing concerns, died in New Orleans on November 7. He was 82 and had suffered from leukaemia for years, working almost until the end in spite of being told, in 1971, that he had only five years to live.

Newhouse Holdings, which consists of over twenty newspapers, Condé Nast Publications with its celebrated titles, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *New Yorker*, the book publishers Random House, and a large cable television operation, was the creation of three brothers, Samuel, Theodore and Norman, who started his career hawking newspapers on a street corner in Bayonne, New Jersey, when he was only five.

A hard-nosed vendor from the first, Newhouse's technique for getting rid of his papers was to say plaintively to a passer-by "Mister, please buy my last paper", and with the sale concluded, to whip another copy from a stack secreted round the corner, and repeat the operation.

At nine he worked as a compositor on the *Bayonne Times*, and was badly burned when molten lead from a linotype machine dripped onto his leg.

Later he graduated from New York University, and worked as a journalist, and was appointed editor of *The*

Long Island Press when it became part of the Newhouse chain. Subsequently he moved into management and played a major role in making the group what it is today. But even when the conglomerate began swallowing major publishers and cable television systems he remained very much a shirt-sleeved newspaperman, getting to his desk by 6am on most days.

Though he travelled widely throughout the United States, keeping a close eye on Newhouse operations, he had no job title and kept a low profile, in accordance with the Newhouse tradition of management.

He leaves his widow, Alice, a daughter, and four sons.

CHARLES MACKENZIE-HILL

All-round sportsman and generous host

Charles Mackenzie-Hill, who died of cancer on November 9 at the age of 50, was a man of many sports.

Educated at Stowe and Cambridge, he was commissioned in the Royal Marines. In the 1950s he was a boxer - he was reckoned with, gaining his blue at Cambridge, and representing his corps, the Army and his country.

On one occasion he had the distinction of being only narrowly beaten by a Russian Olympic heavyweight champion on points, standing in at short notice for the contender, and on another he went the distance against Billy Walker.

He hunted extensively, but especially in Leicestershire and competed on handsome horses but showed equal verve on lesser animals in Ireland.

His minor investment some time ago in the Oldbarns wine chain paid rich dividends, not only to the perpetual stream of guests at his home but also as sponsor of his polo team, in which he played with his three sons.

Mackenzie-Hill will be missed by many, not only for his marvellous hospitality and his great generosity and sense of humour but as one of the last Corinthians who thought that sport should have a bit of personal challenge and danger.

He liked the quotation: "I burn the candle at both ends. I fear I'll not last the night. But oh, my foes, and ah, my friends, it gives a lovely light." For his family and for many who knew him well a light has surely gone out.

George Folsey, the American cinematographer who was behind the camera for such films as *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *Grand Central Station*, *Meet Me in St Louis* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* has died in Los Angeles at the age of 90. Folsey started in films as a boy assistant at the age of 14 and retired six years later with 13 Academy Award nominations. He earned a reputation as a pioneer in the area of subtle lighting, abandoning the harsh contrasts found in early films.

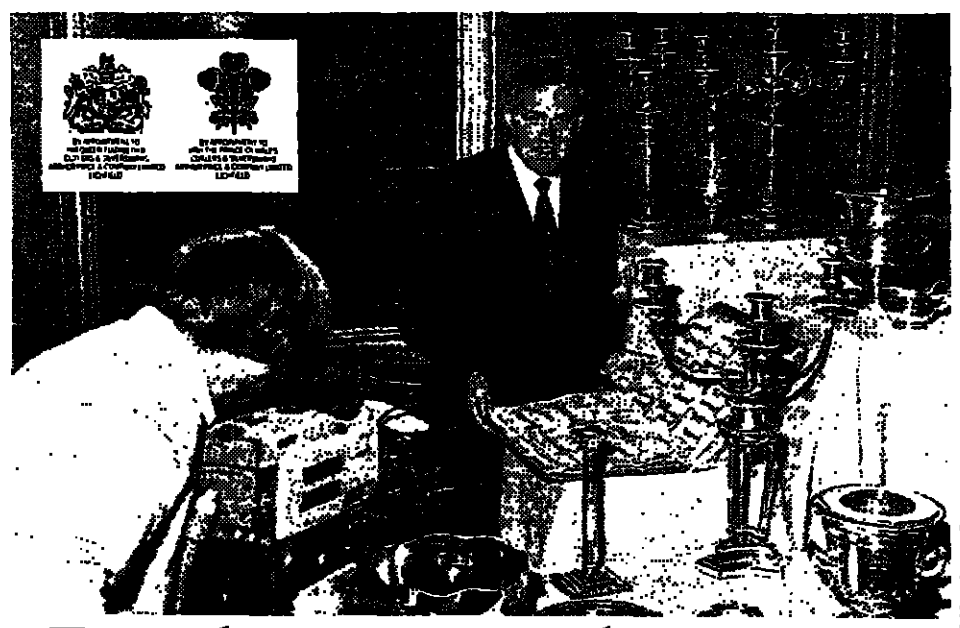
He was born in St Louis, Missouri, and grew up in St Louis. He was a member of the St Louis Athletic Club and was a member of the St Louis Athletic Club. He was a member of the St Louis Athletic Club and was a member of the St Louis Athletic Club.

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11

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1478.8 (-1.0)	US dollar 1.7930 (+0.0030)
FT-SE 100 1826.2 (+0.5)	W German mark 3.1539 (-0.0001)
USM (Datastream) 152.17 (+0.01)	Trade-weighted 76.9 (same)

THE TIMES

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11 1988

PART 2
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-32
ARTS 34
FRIDAY PAGE 35
SPORT 42-46

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Metal Box set for EC go-ahead

The European Commission is expected to give its blessing to a proposed merger between Anglo-French packaging companies, Metal Box and Carmaux, despite launching an informal investigation under the Community's competition rules yesterday.

The commission could withhold approval but does not have the power to block the merger. Both companies drew the attention of the commission to the merger voluntarily.

The new company would be one of the biggest in packaging in the world and would take advantage of the community-wide market after 1992.

Details, page 30

Gleeson leap

Shares in MJ Gleeson, the construction, property and housebuilding company, jumped 50p to 600p yesterday on pre-tax profits up from £6.5 million to £10 million in the year to end-June. A property revaluation has boosted Gleeson's asset value from £44.3 million to £56.6 million, or 56p a share. Earnings per share increased from 54.3p to 70.6p. A final dividend of 6p was declared, up 25 per cent, making a total of 8.1p for the year (6.6p).

Tempos, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2112.55 (-5.89)
Dow Jones	2112.55 (-5.89)
Nikkei Average	28166.42 (-46.26)
Hong Kong	2577.01 (-5.37)
Hang Seng	2577.01 (-5.37)
Amsterdam Gen	275.18 (-3.1)
Sydney: AO	1564.1 (-0.3)
Frankfurt	1593.8 (-19.3)
Commerzbank	1593.8 (-19.3)
General	5383.0 (+6.6)
Paris: CAC	395.6 (-1.6)
Zurich: SCA Gen	491.4 (-5.3)
London	
FT-A All-Share	954.57 (+0.48)
FT-500	1041.37 (+0.79)
FT Gold Mines	178.4 (+4.6)
FT Fixed Interest	97.25 (+0.06)
FT Govt Secs	88.63 (+0.14)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
MJ Gleeson	177p (+10p)
Satchi	80p (+5p)
LEP	145p (+14p)
Meat Trade Supp	302p (+10p)
Messy Docks	148p (+8p)
Great Portland	374p (+13p)
Pennant	121p (+10p)
C E Heath	447p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Scott & Newcastle	390p (-16p)
A McAlpine	324p (-8p)
Breedon	110p (-8p)
Young A	500p (-10p)
G O'Brien	505p (-25p)
A Goldberg	213p (-10p)
MAM	335p (-8p)
Sinclair	171p (-3p)
British Aerospace	483p (-14p)
Throg Dual	290p (-10p)
Wilson Bowden	242p (-8p)
Closing prices	
Berggrun	24052
SEAQ Volume	587.9m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 12%	
3-month interbank: 12% - 12 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills: 11 1/2% - 11 3/4%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate: 10%	
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.62 - 7.61%	
30-year bonds: 10 1/2% - 10 1/4%	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7930	£: \$1.8005
£: DM3.1539	£: DM3.1539
£: FF11.7759	£: FF11.7759
£: Yen222.51	£: Yen222.51
£: Index76.9	£: Index76.9
ECU £0.69309	ECU £0.69309

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM: £22.25 - £21.10	
close: £19.50 - £20.00 (£233.75 - 234.25)	
New York:	
Comex: \$420.90 - \$421.40	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec): 1 pm \$19.00/bbl (\$12.83)	
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES
STOCK WATCH
0898 141 141

- Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: oils were active, Shell (02602) adding 9p and BP (01210) gaining 7p after their figures. Enterprise (02546) was 8p better. Scottish and Newcastle (01897) hit by the referral of the Elders bid, dropped 11p but ConsGold (02200) gained 19p after reports, later denied, that Lorrho (01182) had offered to buy Minorco's stake.
- Recent additions include: Whitegate Leisure p/p 03490, Whitegate Leisure warrants 03491.
- Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak, including VAT.

DTI freeze on Elders buying

By Colin Narborough

The Government yesterday ordered Elders IXL, the Australian brewing group, to stop buying shares in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, and stripped it of voting rights on the £141 million worth of shares it had snapped up during the morning.

Although it has been allowed to keep the extra shares, the Department of Trade and Industry is still considering forcing the company to unscramble the share purchases.

This unprecedented use of the Fair Trading Act by the DTI came in response to the company's decision to push its stake in S&N nearly 10 per cent higher to 23.64 per cent - the maximum allowed under City takeover rules, despite news of the referral.

The Elders buying spree, which lasted less than an hour, began soon

after the company had been informed shortly before 9am that Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had decided to refer the £1.6 billion hostile bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Fair Trading Act specifically calls on companies not to do anything after a referral decision that would prejudice a Monopolies inquiry or make it more difficult for action to be taken on an MMC ruling.

The DTI and the Office of Fair Trading, on whose advice Lord Young had referred the bid, both Elders and its legal adviser, Freshfields, ignored this provision and normal City practice of halting share-buying after a referral is announced.

An Elders spokesman said neither

the company nor its legal advisers had been asked to stop buying shares concurrent with the referral announcement. The OFT said this was "rubbish" and that the legal advisers had been informed at that time.

Elders says it was only asked for undertakings not to buy more shares after it had stopped of its own accord. When asked some time before 11am, it gave its verbal agreement immediately, the spokesman said.

In the absence of Lord Young, who had to fly to Paris at noon, Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, signed the order to stop Elders buying more of S&N at 3pm.

The DTI made clear that it normally had no difficulty with bidders after a referral and had been

forced to act after the OFT failed to obtain undertakings from Elders.

Elders bought its additional shares at an average of 400p each over the morning when the price had climbed as high as 420p before falling back to 395p. S&N shares had closed at 406p on Wednesday, but dropped to 374p on news of the referral.

The bid, which has provoked a storm of protest in Scotland where it is seen as threatening to further erode the region's industrial base, automatically lapsed on referral.

Elders confirmed its intention to continue with the bid after the four-month MMC inquiry. "The share buying reflects our confidence that the bid will not be blocked," the Elders spokesman said.

Mr John Elliott, the Elders' chief executive, who left London on

Wednesday evening, issued a statement saying he was shocked and disappointed about the referral. "We had hoped that all relevant issues had been fully dealt with in our submission to the OFT."

Lord Young said the very unusual nature of the brewing industry had persuaded him to refer Elders bid. "There are only six major brewery groups in the country. Here are two of them trying to get together."

He said pubs were not like shops, and could not be opened wherever one wanted, and the number was therefore more or less fixed.

The important factor behind his decision was the investigation into tied houses, an issue which the MMC has been studying separately for the past two years. The Commission is due to report on this in February.

Comment, page 27

BP on target for billion-pound asset sale with repeat next year

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP is on target to dispose of £1 billion worth of assets this year to cut its debt and has hinted that next year's asset sales could reach a similar level.

The board is to discuss a package of sales to further BP's process of disposing of assets which do not meet strict earnings targets or which do not fit in with its core businesses.

However, sales will only be made when the full value of the assets involved can be realized. For that reason, the board has delayed the sale of part of its BP Gold subsidiary until the world gold price rises.

Sealed bids for 2 1/2 per cent units in the BP Magnus field are due to be opened at noon today. This sale, coupled with the £195 million already received this year from the sale of North Sea assets which are either no longer tax efficient or which do not fit in with future plans, has meant that BP earnings from oil exploration and development remain high despite the fall in crude prices.

Both BP and Shell yesterday reported third quarter profits higher than City expectations with earnings from refining, chemical and mineral operations nearing record levels.

BP had after tax replacement cost profits of £402 million for the quarter against £330 million last time, taking profits for the year to date up 24 per cent to £1,133 million, compared to £914 million.

While BP profits have been hit by the rise in value of sterling against the dollar, the



Rising above City fears: Sir Peter Holmes at the Shell Tower (Photograph: Peter Trievner)

company's chemicals and minerals businesses showed record new profits.

The chemical division's £122 million third quarter profit is £68 million up on a year ago and the minerals division increased to £62 million from £19 million last time.

Mr David Simon, BP managing director, said: "Despite the combination of a fall in crude oil prices and a weaker US dollar, the performance of the BP group has remained quite satisfactory. Exploration and production was helped by the sale of some of our North Sea assets and the inclusion of

Britoil. Our downstream performance, combined with the continued success of our major non-oil businesses contributed in a very positive way to our success."

Sir Peter Holmes, Shell chairman, announced earnings during the third quarter on a current cost basis of £831 million, 31 per cent up on last year's £635 million. Profits for the year so far total £2,388 million on a current cost basis, 28 per cent up of last year's nine month total of £1,863 million.

The improved results are mainly due to Shell's manufacturing, marine, chemicals

and minerals businesses. Earnings from chemicals are likely to continue to improve with all its plants now running at full capacity and demand for most products outstripping supply, Shell said.

It added that uncertainty over the world crude price would mean greater technical emphasis being placed on innovation and efficiency in oil exploration.

"The downstream sector continues to show improvement from the depressed levels of a year ago with lower supply costs and stronger demand," said a spokesman.

Shareholders set to reject Abbey Life merger plan

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Abbey Life's proposed £1.1 billion merger with Lloyds Bank is in jeopardy, with only days to go before the shareholders of both institutions vote on the deal this Monday.

After nearly a month of barnstorming its institutional shareholders - many of whom were initially opposed to the deal - Abbey is confident it has more than 50 per cent support.

That is enough to vote through a proposal to merge, giving Lloyds a 57 per cent controlling interest. But Abbey is not certain it will win the 75 per cent necessary to vote through a further special resolution which forms an essential part of the deal.

This involves the placing of Lloyds representatives on the Abbey board and increasing the borrowing powers of the Abbey group to accommodate the addition of Lloyds Bowmaker, the finance house owned by Lloyds, which is to be transferred to the insurance company in the merger.

Bowmaker has a £2.5 billion borrowing limit, far above that allowed in Abbey's articles of association.

Mr David Bagley, Abbey's finance director, said: "If we get more than 50 per cent support for the merger but less than 75 per cent for the special resolution, we will have to think again about how to proceed."

"We may be able to renegotiate the special resolution."

But Lloyds was pessimistic

about the possibility of a renegotiation.

Mr David Horne, head of Lloyds Merchant Bank, said: "I do not see how we could renegotiate the point about Abbey's borrowing powers which have simply got to be increased to accommodate Lloyds Bowmaker in the Abbey group."

There is a hard core of institutional opposition to the deal, amounting to about 20 per cent of Abbey shares.

Although other institutions are also known to be unhappy about the proposed merger, many of them are expected to abstain.

Some institutional shareholders which hold Abbey shares in different investment funds are likely to split their support and vote in both directions.

It is understood that among those unhappy about the deal is MAM, the investment management arm of SG Warburg, the merchant bank handling the deal for Abbey.

Many shareholders are still annoyed that Lloyds is offering no substantial premium over Abbey share price for its controlling stake.

"Some institutions seem concerned that this will set a precedent, even though they support the commercial logic of our deal," Mr Bagley said.

There were also suggestions in some quarters that a few companies were afraid of the power Abbey would gain from the deal and would oppose it for competitive reasons.

Royal stop on writing California insurance

By John Bell, City Editor

One of Britain's largest insurance groups, Royal, has ceased writing new business in California pending the outcome of a legal challenge to Proposition 103, a measure which cuts premium rates by 20 per cent.

Proposition 103, sponsored by Mr Ralph Nader, the consumer activist, was passed by California's electors on Tuesday. Yesterday it started protests from more than 60 insurance companies operating in the state.

California's insurance commissioner, Miss Roxani Gillespie, gave a warning before the vote that it could lead to widespread withdrawals by insurance companies.

Royal, which last year generated \$340 million (£192 million) of premium income in California, said that some insurance lines, such as workers' compensation, were not affected by proposition 103. But around 75 per cent of its Californian business was threatened.

Royal stressed that its decision was not a withdrawal from the state but a temporary move pending clarification of the position.

Analysts say the measure could have a material impact on profits of both Royal and Farmers, the Los Angeles company acquired by BAT for more than £3 billion this year.

Mr Chris Pountain, of County Natwest Woodmac, estimates that on a worst case basis about 15 per cent of Farmers' 1989 profits, which County forecasts at £230 million next year, are vulnerable if Proposition 103 comes into force immediately.

Royal could suffer a loss of between 6 and 7 per cent of profits due to the measure, says County.

Leading insurers took swift legal action yesterday to block the implementation of Proposition 103 on the grounds that it was unconstitutional.

Storehouse tumbles 29%

Speculation that Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse Group is ripe for takeover has revived, after a dreadful half-year figures.

The company yesterday revealed interim pre-tax profits down 29 per cent to £23.6 million, the very bottom end of analysts' expectations.

Earnings per share fell 30 per cent to 3.7p, and the interim dividend was maintained at 2.5p net.

The company said it will take a further two- to three-year programme to get back on track.

Tempos, page 26

Too soon to claim rates success, says Bank

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

It is too early to tell whether the raising of interest rates during the summer will be sufficient to slow the economy to a sustainable rate, says the Bank of England in its latest Quarterly Bulletin.

In a sober assessment the

Bank indicates that it is keeping an open mind about whether the present degree of tightness is sufficient and warns that policy will have to remain restrictive until there are clear signs that inflationary pressures are abating.

To slow the economy down safely is likely to require narrower profit margins,

smaller pay rises and a stable exchange rate. Output will in future have to grow much faster than domestic demand, implying a switch of resources into exports.

The Bank would like to see some tax stimulus to saving in order to help contain the trade deficit.

The Bank concedes that

monetary statistics as yet show no sign of slowing with bank lending still strong and the narrow M0 measure showing fast underlying growth.

Wage drift (the gap between settlements and earnings growth) is not likely to fall much even if output growth slows, says the Bank.

Comment, page 27

Edwards reveals approaches for Minorco's holding

Lorrho 'wanted ConsGold stake'

From Colin Campbell, Luxembourg

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland's Lorrho group has - among others - approached Minorco, on two recent and separate occasions, to buy Minorco's 29.5 per cent stake in Consolidated Gold Fields.

Lorrho was told that the stake is not for sale, and that Minorco is not looking for a buyer.

The approach was disclosed in Luxembourg at Minorco's annual meeting yesterday by Sir Michael Edwards, Minorco's deputy chairman and the man responsible for spearheading the controversial £2.9 billion bid for ConsGold, launched on September 21.

But in London, Lorrho formally said "it never sought to make an offer" for Minorco's ConsGold stake.

The Minorco bid has now lapsed, after a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Minorco, however, remains keen to bid for, and take over, ConsGold if cleared by the MMC.

Sir Michael said here yesterday that Lorrho and Minorco had held a "business meeting" initiated by Sir Edward du Cann, Lorrho's chairman, and that the meeting took place at Mr Rowland's London home on October 26.

Other parties have also courted Minorco and "cast a fly" over its ConsGold stake, but no formal offer has ever been made, Sir Michael added. "I agreed to the meeting because I wanted to hear what he had to say."

Sir Michael, with Mr Tony Lea, Minorco's financial director, told Mr Rowland at the October 26 meeting that

Minorco "was not looking for a buyer of its ConsGold stake", and was confident of dealing satisfactorily with the reference to the Mergers and Monopolies Commission of its ConsGold bid.

Mr Rowland waited a week and again raised the issue - this time directly with Mr Harry Oppenheimer - at a special dinner party hosted by Mr Rowland at Claridge's Hotel on November 3.

Mr Oppenheimer, son of the founder of the Anglo American/De Beers South African gold/diamond empire, and still a significant figure in Minorco's affairs, told Mr Rowland that "it was inappropriate for him (Mr Oppenheimer) to discuss the matter."

Yesterday's meeting in Luxembourg was attended by Mr Jeremy Deely, ConsGold's corporate lawyer (representing ConsGold's 20,000 shares in Minorco), Mr Oppenheimer - as a Minorco director - representatives of James Capel, stockbroker to Minorco, and a number of Press members - but apparently no more than two outside shareholders.

Mr Neil Clarke, who stepped down this week as chief executive of Charter Consolidated, in which Minorco has a 36 per cent stake, did not appear at the annual meeting. His absence was explained by his directorship of ConsGold and the need to maintain strict Chinese walls.

During the meeting, Minorco attacked ConsGold's attitude to the bid. Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the Minorco chairman, said ConsGold had embarked on a "worldwide orchestrated programme of vilification and abuse against

Minorco, Anglo American, De Beers, and Mr Harry Oppenheimer."

"The programme, targeted at condemning anything that was South African, was unashamedly done without any regard to ConsGold's own very substantial South African ownership and history."

"As a major shareholder, we are very concerned at the damage which have caused the businesses of ConsGold."

Mr Ogilvie Thompson, in a particular reference to ConsGold criticism of the ownership of Minorco (currently Anglo American and De Beers South Africa have a joint 60 per cent stake, scheduled to fall to 40 per cent on completion of a successful bid), said: "In a publicly listed company, the board obviously has authority in determining where to invest. It has no right to pick its shareholders, who, after all, own the business."

"At no time has ConsGold told its shareholders what the company is worth, despite firm reports that it would do so. Our policy from the outset was to conduct our bid in a professional and dignified manner."

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said Minorco had, as a matter of principle, voted against a special resolution at ConsGold's own annual meeting on November 3, which would have given the ConsGold board blanket authority to issue over £100 million worth of new shares for any purpose, without recourse to shareholders.

"We are co-operating fully with the MMC and are confident of a satisfactory outcome," Mr Ogilvie Thompson added.

minority statistics as yet show no sign of slowing with bank lending still strong and the narrow M0 measure showing fast underlying growth.

Wage drift (the gap between settlements and earnings growth) is not likely to fall much even if output growth slows, says the Bank.

Comment, page 27

ACTIVE IN MIDTOWN PROPERTY

■ Hale Court Lincoln's Inn London WC2 10,674 sq ft Assigned	■ 401-403 St John Street London EC1 2,340 sq ft Acquired
■ 50/52 Chancery Lane London WC2 26,255 sq ft Assigned	■ Denning House 88/90 Chancery Lane London WC2 30,650 sq ft Acquired
■ 40 Raymond Buildings 2nd floor Gray's Inn London WC1 11,500 sq ft Assigned	■ Brettenham House Lancaster Place London WC2 3,400 sq ft Let
■ 17/36 High Holborn London WC1 23,207 sq ft Sold	■ London & Paris Properties Ltd

Weatherall
21 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EX
01-405 6844

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Eight-fold profit rise for William Cook

William Cook, Britain's leading steel foundry group, showed an eight-fold leap in interim pre-tax profits from £220,000 in 1987 to £1.825 million for the six months to end-September, on turnover of £26.03 million. Earnings per share rose 557 per cent to 13.13p (2p).

Mr Andrew Cook, the chairman, said prospects for the rest of the financial year were encouraging, and he expected the company to continue making good progress. Strict management control at William Cook Steel Castings and Hothrook Precision Castings produced results ahead of budget, while Catton enjoyed the benefits of greater volume and improved work mix to give good results as well. The board has declared an interim dividend of 2.75p, against 2.25p.

S&F extends Pittard bid Hazlewood in Dutch buy

Strong & Fisher claimed to speak for 5.9 per cent of the Pittard Garment share capital at the first closing date for its £41 million takeover bid. Acceptances totalled 2.9 per cent, while S&F has increased its own share stake to about 3 per cent during the course of the bid. The offer has been extended until 3 p.m. on November 30.

Hazlewood Foods has acquired Redmill Company, a Dutch producer of snacks, for an initial cash payment of 9 million guilders (£2.52 million). Further consideration of up to a maximum of 2.6 million guilders (£730,000) is payable depending on Redmill's 1988 profits. The vendors will continue to run the business.

Barclays new account

Barclays Bank has become the third of the big four clearing banks to announce plans to pay interest on current accounts. It will launch a new account early next year to compete with the interest-bearing building society accounts which have attracted large numbers of customers. No details of fees or interest rates are available from Barclays yet.

Lloyds Bank announced plans to pay interest on current accounts last month and the National Westminster Bank followed this week. The Midland Bank is also planning a similar account for early next year but is unlikely to make an announcement until it has finalized its plans.

Barr & WA's Renault deal Blacks swaps with JJB

Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust, which has interests in motor distribution, has signed heads of agreement with Renault UK for the purchase of the Leeds Renault dealership from January 31 1989 for £950,000 cash. The dealership acquired provides sales and servicing for Renault's full range at a site close to Leeds City centre.

Blacks Leisure, the camping and leisurewear group, is buying Alpine Sports, a central London retailer of skiing, climbing and camping equipment, for £2.3 million from JJB Sports. Blacks will also sell to JJB the assets of 11 stores of its subsidiary, Howard Sports, for £1.7 million. JJB will receive the £600,000 difference in cash.

Too little too late at Storehouse

Among the institutions, it is all becoming a bit embarrassing. While it is difficult to find anyone admitting to owning Gateway shares, no one is admitting to owning many Storehouse shares either.

Very few, the clever 3 per cent, sold out to Mountleigh before its abortive bid in the summer of 1987. Another 2 per cent sold to Robert Maxwell, the publisher. But beyond these two shareholders, and chairman Sir Terence Conran's 7.5 per cent, the shares are widely scattered.

Yet it is difficult to find much sympathy for the group. Sir Terence has had three years now to knock his Habitat-Mothercare-BhS combine into shape and shareholders are running out of patience.

It has proved to be a possible error to have left the incumbent chief executive in charge of BhS. It meant there was little change where it was most needed, and Storehouse was unable to behave as a group and reap the benefits of economies of scale. Even as late as last year, separate delivery vans were maintained to service each chain.

Under the guidance of the new chief executive, Michael Julien, the group is being reshaped, and will be all the better for it. There will be new distribution systems, better use of space, and the revamping of BhS.

But BhS is doing only now what all its competitors have been doing throughout the 1980s. Take a look at a refurbished BhS store and it now resembles a Marks and Spencer store.

As the higher interest rates bite deeper into disposable incomes, both stores will be hit by consumers' reduced spending power. But even M&S is having a tough time,

so it will be much more difficult for Storehouse to cope with the downturn in retailing when it is also trying to reposition itself in the market.

The market's response to yesterday's dismal results was to mark the share price up 6p to 173p, presumably in the hope that a predator will come along and put the shareholders out of their misery.

The analysts have been downgrading their profits forecasts from £100 million for this financial year to £85 million to £90 million, leaving the shares on a prospective multiple of 12. The question facing the management is whether it can maintain a precarious hold on the confidence of the institutions for long enough to see its strategy through.

Wellcome

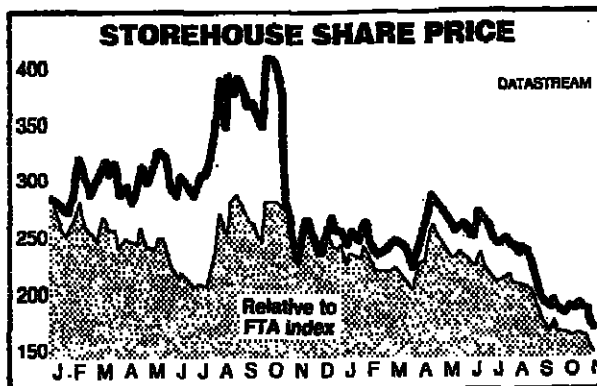
By any yardstick a 31 per cent jump in profits should be a good enough tonic for any share which has been suffering from a bout of the jitters.

But the stock market's nervousness about Wellcome, one of our leading pharmaceutical companies, continued yesterday despite a leap in pre-tax profits for last year from £169 million to £221 million, well up to most expectations.

Wellcome's splendid showing looks almost entirely due to the success of its two high profile drugs, Retrovir which is used in the fight against Aids and Zovirax against herpes.

Wellcome is coy about revealing how much these two high-margin drugs actually earned the company. But sales of Zovirax soared by 35 per cent to £216 million while

TEMPUS



Retrovir, making a contribution for the first time, chipped in £90 million of sales, together accounting for 28 per cent of the healthcare business.

The huge costs of launching such drugs has to be considered in arriving at a bottom line contribution but market estimates put the trading profit from Retrovir at anything from £20 million to £35 million.

Wellcome frankly admits it has no idea how long it will maintain its headstart in the two products but the market remains concerned that competitors will eventually make inroads into the company's position.

Prospects for Retrovir in particular have suffered from worries about side effects, cheap imports into the all-important US market, and other difficulties. So far there is little evidence of any therapy currently under development which represents a threat.

The strong sales growth of Zovirax and Retrovir, supported by a substantial research and development programme, should enable Wellcome to maintain its market position well into the 1990s.

The more immediate prob-

lem for the group is its heavy overseas exposure — this year 42 per cent of sales and 60 per cent of trading profit were generated in the US. The weaker dollar and other currency movements knocked £25 million off profits.

For the current year, Wellcome looks on course for making profits well above £300 million but the volatility of sentiment towards its best known drugs is likely to leave the shares wide open to speculators. At 457p, up 2p, the shares should be bought on any sign of weakness.

Gleeson

Gleeson has made the most of a changing market place without eroding the quality of its earnings.

It has diversified over the last decade to complement its core construction business and now also has well established residential and investment property operations.

Latest results show trading profits of £7.2 million, up from £3.5 million, divided equally between housing and building operations. Rental income rose from £1.8 million to £2.3 million helped by the inclusion of a full year from an office in the City of London.

The balance sheet contains net cash despite the demands made on it by housing, property and a work in progress from a well-filled order book. Interest received was £462,000 down from £1.3 million in 1986-88.

Gleeson's conservative habits when taking profits on its building activities has spread to its housing operation. So profits are taken on a site or phase of site basis rather than unit by unit.

This practice has smoothed earnings in buoyant times but should help spread profits more evenly if times become harder. A good quality product and improved marketing has protected Gleeson so far from any downturn — sales are ahead since the July year-end.

Gleeson aims to expand the housing operation further, which should not be difficult given the modest volumes (about 300 units a year) and the land bank acquired some years ago.

House builders with land would make attractive acquisition targets as would specialist contractors. This would help Gleeson build on a growing reputation at the sophisticated end of the building market for high-tech offices and retail units.

The property portfolio is going through a period of consolidation, although within a couple of years the rent roll should jump a million pounds as a sizeable project comes on stream.

Gleeson should make £11.5 million this year, giving earnings per share on a rising tax charge of at least 75p. This leaves the shares on modest p/e of eight times. The shares have defensive qualities which make them well worth tucking away.

Erostin in 58% climb to £2.6m at half-time

Erostin Group, the commercial and residential property developer floated in July, increased interim pre-tax profits 58 per cent from £1.6 million to £2.6 million.

Turnover was £19.4 million (£9.4 million) and earnings per share rose to 8.4p (7.0p).

Mr John Upton, the chairman, forecast that pre-tax profits for the full year would be not less than £6.2 million, and that the total net dividend for the year would be 5.5p per ordinary share. The interim dividend is 2p.

Egerton buys

Egerton Trust, the development to health care group, is acquiring Gayton and Pinecreek, two Northampton residential development companies, for an initial £2.5 million, met by a vendor placing of 1.118,604 new ordinary shares. It is also raising £10 million through the placing of 10 million first cumulative redeemable preference shares 2013 of £1 each.

US purchase

Baker Harris Saunders, the surveyor and commercial estate agent, has entered into a conditional agreement to acquire Richard Sykes and Partners, of New York. The initial consideration is \$6.2 million (£3.65 million), met by £2.75 million cash and 828,338 new Baker Harris Saunders ordinary shares.

Shares issue

Meggitt Holdings, the specialist engineer, is buying KDG Holdings, a process control group, for £8.5 million. The deal is being funded by the issue of 8.5 million new Meggitt shares, of which 2.1 million have been placed by the vendors through McCaughan Dyson Cape Cure, the broker, at 94.5p each.

Ryan growth

Ryan Hotels, the Irish hotel group, is expanding into Europe by acquiring the 90-bedroom Le Belson hotel in Brussels for Ir£2.38 million (£2.01 million) cash. It also announced a two-for-five rights issue at Ir£32p to raise Ir£4.64 million.

Cash deals

Walker Greenbank has paid about £1.4 million cash for Hampshire Medical Developments and WE McKenzie, and is buying the Harold Bloom Group of companies for £620,000 cash.

Memcom call

Memcom International is raising about £1.8 million through a seven-for-five underwritten rights issue at 10p a share.

COMPANY BRIEFS

APPLEBY WESTWARD (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.803 (£0.517m)
EPS: 9.2p (6.6p)
Div: 2.0p (1.6p)

Directors are confident of another successful year after all divisions performed satisfactorily. Turnover rose 35 per cent to £26.59m.

VIDEO TAPE REC (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.928 (£0.571m)
EPS: 9.0p (8.8p)
Div: 1.7p mkg 2.5p

All loans have been repaid and the company is almost unencumbered. Turnover increased 33.3 per cent to £2.97m against £2.23m.

AMBER IND (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.706 (£0.553m)
EPS: 16.4p (13.3p)
Div: 3.75p (3.25p)

The chairman said the profit rise has flowed from Ambersil's chemical activity. Turnover rose to £5.43m against £4.91m.

YORKLYDE (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.221 (£1.159m)
EPS: 16.9p (16.1p)
Div: 2.75p (2.75p)

The Arthur Bell acquisition in August has not shown results in the first half, but should show a contribution to the group's final results.

WILLIAMSON TEA (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.118 (£4.914m)
EPS: 48.11p (74.52p)
Div: 10p mkg 20p

In view of the depressed state of the world tea market, the group's profit can be considered reasonable. Sales fell to £31.85m (£35.64m).

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		Jewels Group		198 +10		Thomsons (125p)		131 -1	
BMSB (118p)	123	Lincat Group (119p)	170	Whitegate Leds P/P	14 1/2				
Bucknell Aust (110p)	111	Mitsubishi Bank	214 1/4 + 1/4						
Bulker Gp (125p)	33	Nat Telecom	97 -2						
Calder Int	104 +1	New Zealand Int	97 -2						
Chaffin Group	138	Parmington Poteries	189						
Colomade	161	Racal Telecom	170 1/2 +1						
Com-Tek	141	Riva	125						
Darby Group	161	SCH Corp	£18 1/2 - 1/4						
Edinburgh Hibernian	58	SMAC Group	97						
Heritage (85p)	160	SWP	25						
Herring Son (150p)	152 -2	Specialist	73						
Hi-Tech Sports	143 +1	Sunnet & Vine	125						
Jersey Gen Inv Tr	515	Swallowfield	159						

The name you first think of isn't the only one with big ideas on instant accommodation.



Our Lincpac system buildings can go on for ever — one or two storeys. Built to very high specifications and ready clad, they are placed on pre-prepared foundations and operational within hours. They are internally fitted in our factory to your precise requirements and are suitable for most applications. Flexibility is a prime benefit. You can add to or subtract from them as you need and they can be relocated easily. Solve your accommodation problems fast and economically. Hire or buy, you'll find our prices competitive, our delivery swift and our service a treat.

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Vic Hallam

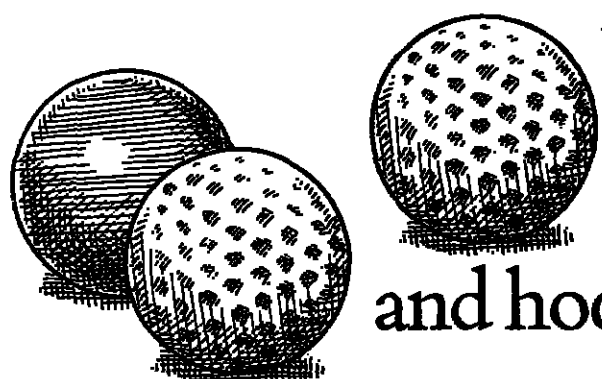
Vic Hallam PLC
Langley Mill Nottingham NG16 4AN
Tel (0773) 531153 Telex 37426 Fax (0773) 530128
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better by comparison
Yes, I'd like to know more about your big ideas.

Please send me your colour literature. I attach my business card/letterhead.

TAA

Performance like ours takes balls



and rackets and clubs

and hockey sticks and cricket

bats and shuttlecocks and footwear

and clothing and furniture and

beds and mattresses and

pillows and hosiery. And

the commitment of thousands

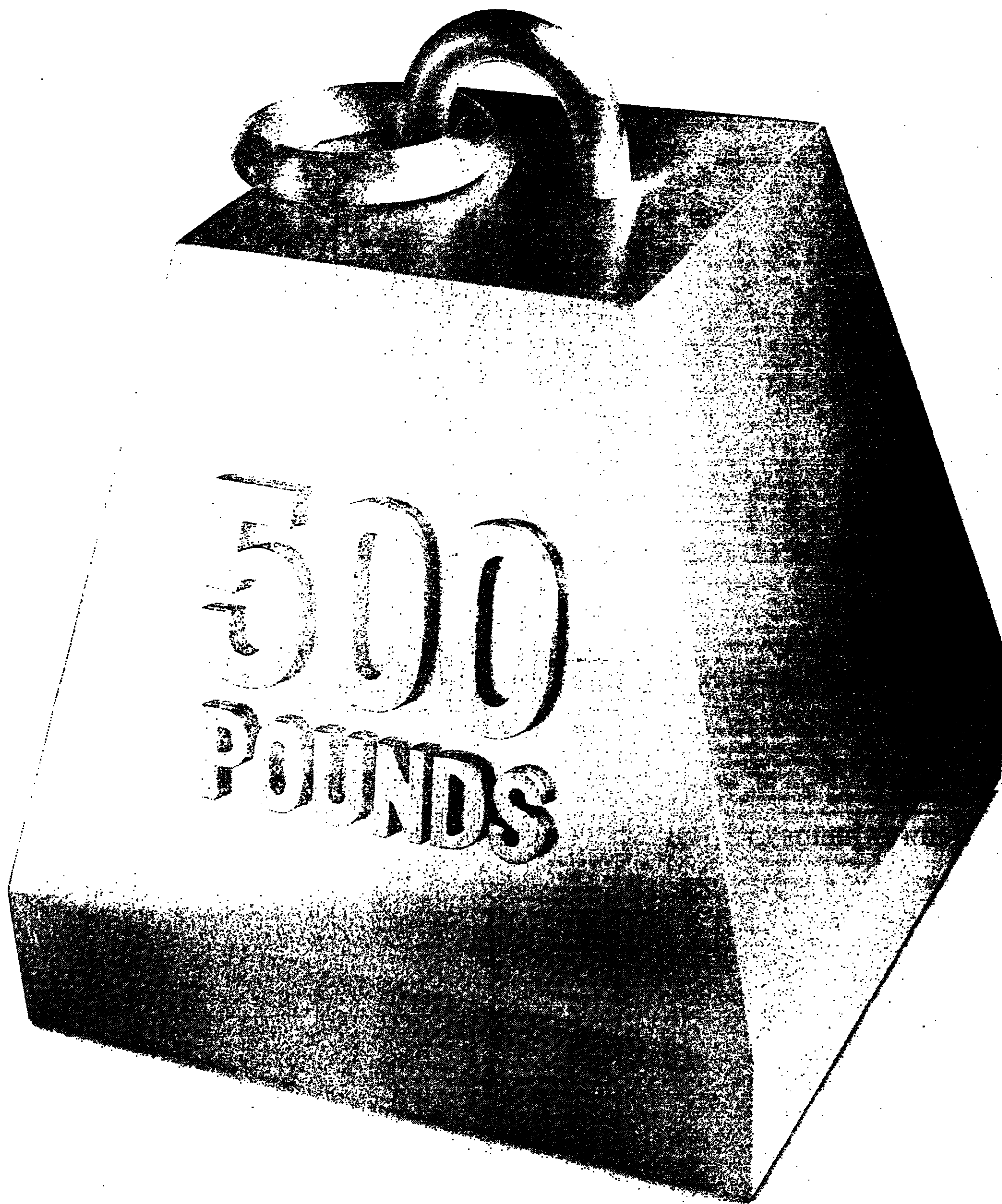
of people in hundreds of

companies throughout

the world. **BTR**

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Rosemary Unsworth



The minimum investment.

The minimum application level for shares will be around £500 and payment will be in two instalments. Applications must be received by 10am on December 2nd. If you have not already done so, you can phone 0272 272 272 or send the coupon below to register with the Share Information Office. You will then be sent more information about British Steel and the share offer, as well as a prospectus and personalised application form after they are issued on November 23rd.

British Steel.
British strength.

Send to: British Steel Share Information Office, P.O. Box 1, Bristol BS99 1BS. T6

Mr/Mrs/Ms Full Forenames

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Surname

Address

Postcode

ISSUED BY SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LIMITED, MEMBER OF TSA, AS FINANCIAL ADVISER FOR H M GOVERNMENT. SHARES MAY GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP.

500 POUNDS

\$1000
TO INVE

Staveley's turnover increased to £117.5 million, up from £98.6 million. Earnings per share were 6.74p against 5.39p. The interim dividend was raised from 1.7p to 1.9p.

Planning for 1992: Dr Brian Smith, chairman of MB Group

Mr Powers will stay on the Jardine Matheson board but will give up all his executive duties and his directorships of other companies in the group.

Mr Powers' master plan paid off this May when three of the territory's biggest Chinese businessmen tried to persuade the Keswick family to sell Hongkong Land and its portfolio of prime central office space. After an all-night meeting the three realized that the Keswicks would not sell

These write-offs, Mr Clark said, meant bad debt provisions had to be replenished and Aus\$351 million had been charged against profits, aug-

The contents of this advertisement, for which the Directors of The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. are jointly responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 37 of the Financial Services Act 1985 by Ernst & Whinney, a firm authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

[illegible]

Equities mark time

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 30)

• Ex dividend • Ex all • Forecast dividend • Interest payment passed • Price at suspension • Dividend and yield exclude a special payment • Pre-merger figures • Forecast earnings • Ex other • Ex rights • Ex scrip or share split • Trailing • No dividend

Line	Category	Est Price	Orig Price	Cons Vls	P/E
100	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
101	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
102	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
103	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
104	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
105	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
106	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
107	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
108	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
109	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
110	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
111	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
112	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
113	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
114	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
115	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
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141	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
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151	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
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167	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
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172	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
173	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
174	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
175	Alum. Pipe	222	222	33	202
17					

47	Ontario	196	196	27	44	28.8
500	Only East	203	203	44	22	20.8
143	Quebec	191	194	78	48	7.8

85	37	Brigand Co	43	46	-1	0.5	1.3	22.0
88	2137	Buck	172	174	+2	8.7	5.0	19.6
56	173	Buck-Country	244	249	+5	9.3	8.8	23.1

225	150	Transportation	300	270	..	12.8	8.2	16.8
290	205	Transport Dev	236	240	..	12.3	5.2	12.2
128	91	Tires	112	117	● ..	6.0	5.2	21.1

133	103	St Vincent Res	100	125	-2	5.0	4.9
17%	11%	Hartman	13%	1	-12		
200	160	Hunting P S	170	180	10	12.0	6.9
25	14	25% C	12	15			

• Ex dividend • Ex all • Forfeited dividend • Int

Insured - [REDACTED]
Insured - [REDACTED]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was same at 76.9 (day's range 76.9).

[illegible]

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1,196-1,521	Denmark	6,787-8,795	Italy	1,369.0-1,710.0
Singapore	1,660-1,967	W Germany	1,767-1,757	Belgium (Com)	36.85-36.95
Malaysia	2,670-2,770	Switzerland	1,470-1,477	Hong Kong	7,090.7-7,090.7
Australia	1,161-1,183	Netherlands	1,920-1,870	Portugal	145.90-146.00
Canada	1,226-1,275	France	6,060-6,010	Spain	116.00-116.15
Sweden	1,170-1,159	Japan	182.05-184.05	Austria	12.96-12.97
Finland	6,700-6,750	U.S.	8,000-8,000	Switzerland	100.00-100.00

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]**GOLD**[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

8 Barnett	66	95	..	..	..	..
London Put	15	18	..	..	..	..
Mercedes	11	14	..	..	..	..
London Res	63	69	+1	..	..	..
London	93	96	..	23	24	262

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Yield				Price			
Open	High	Low	Close	Open	High	Low	Close
Y-TSE 100	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	HS Treasury Bond	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30
Y-TSE Sterling	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Long Call	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30
Y-TSE Euro	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Y-TSE Euro Bond	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30
Y-TSE Month Euro	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Y-TSE Month Euro Bond	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30
Y-TSE Month Euro	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Y-TSE Month Euro Bond	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30
Y-TSE Month Euro	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Y-TSE Month Euro Bond	98.30	98.30
Dec 88	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Mar 89	98.30	98.30
Jan 89	104.33	105.60	104.33	105.60	Jun 89	98.30	98.30

COMMODITIES

LONDON POX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Offered last similar		Official prices/contract previous day			Rebuff Wahl
COCA	G W Joynton	R/30000			
8444	Dec 855	Copper			40000
850	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
851	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
852	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
853	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
854	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
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856	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
857	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
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862	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
863	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
864	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
865	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
866	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
867	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
868	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
869	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
870	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
871	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
872	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
873	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
874	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
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999	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000
1000	Dec 877-875	Copper			40000

0-15.00	Dec 242.0-45.0	Aug 222.8-23.0	† (Cents per 100 lbs.) - (\$ per tonne)
0-14.25	Mar 234.0-34.2	Oct 220.4-20.6	
0-13.50			

LONDON CATTLE FUTURES		FUTURES (cwt)		Avg's feedstock prices at representative markets on November 10		
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 2)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 3)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 4)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 5)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 6)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 7)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 8)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 9)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 10)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 11)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 12)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 13)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 14)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 15)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 16)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 17)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 18)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 19)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 20)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 21)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 22)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 23)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 24)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 25)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 26)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 27)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 28)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 29)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 30)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 31)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 32)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 33)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 34)	\$14.18
7-25.25	WHEAT (cwt) 1/2	Nov	95.50	95.50	Wheat (No. 35)	\$14.18
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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Impact diffused

Comedy hits the mark more often when it does not strain too hard to avoid aiming in the wrong place — below belts, above heads, beside points. Some of the funniest and best television has ignored that source of creativity, targeting.

With a quiet genius, Eric Thompson took unpromising footage of French puppets and turned *The Magic Roundabout* into a unique entertainment which appealed almost as much to children as to adults. Now with *Thompson* (BBC1), his famous, multi-talented daughter Emma has written a comedy series which is also not easy to categorize: sketches, mostly with some sexual-political point; songs, gently paradoxical rather than fiercely satirical; even some straight modern dance. But despite one or two very funny moments, and a witty sketch with her sister Sophie and her mother Phyllida Law, about a Victorian newlywed getting the wrong end of the stick over her husband's anatomy, this particular mixture did not amount to something startlingly original. Indeed, it seemed closer to intended to that deadening blanket covering — light entertainment.

Ironically, what pushed the programme in that direction was the quality of the performers and production. Mr Thompson was forced by his only two wooden actors into brilliant verbal invention. Ms Thompson, however, can do almost anything as an actor in any voice, and she surrounded herself by an array of other superb actors, including Kenneth Branagh, Robbie Coltrane, Stephen Moore and Imelda Staunton. It would take a better writer than her fully to stretch that cast — or, indeed, herself. A rather thin sketch with Branagh about a separating couple dividing their records, which ended with them in a trick shot on a turntable, seemed like a star turn by two celebrities on a variety show.

If the material had not been so slickly packaged, but thrust less well prepared in front of a *Saturday Night Live*-style audience, the performers might have been forced into overdrive and would have perhaps taken her sketches into riskier but more rewarding directions.

Andrew Hislop

Sarah Jane Checkland meets the director of the Getty Museum, "big bad wolf" of the world art market



Small, serious, beautiful: John Walsh in the grounds of the Getty Museum, is for the moment housed in a reproduction Roman villa in California's Santa Monica mountains

A threat from the villa?

"When I first started, five years ago, we were considered the barbarians at the gate. There were fears about big money and tactics, that we would be gobbling up everything on the market. Now there's this bizarre twist with people starting to wonder whether we are being aggressive enough."

The man who finds himself at the centre of these criticisms is John Walsh, director of the Getty Museum. He is in London, paying a "courtesy call" on Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, and dropping in on art dealers to consider their wares. He is also, in his bookish, understated way, here to adjust the record concerning his museum.

The popular image is that the museum travels the world, snatching precious works at any price, regardless of patrimony or authenticity. John Walsh confirmed the voraciousness of the Getty's appetite. It is actively buying at a rate of "well over 100 acquisitions of some importance" each year, and that this is likely to continue for generations. He also talked of further growth in store: a huge new complex on 105 acres of Santa Monica mountains, which, on completion in 1994 will reduce

to a distant annexe the much-criticized reproduction Roman villa. And yet Walsh describes his museum as "small to medium sized, very serious and rather beautiful".

The adjective "small," he says, makes sense in relation to great collections like the Metropolitan in New York and the National in London, both of which had a huge advantage of time. Masterpieces are rare on the market these days, as most great works have already gravitated to museums. "Small" also refers to the museum's size relative to the Getty Foundation as a whole.

As regards what Walsh calls the "serious" side of the museum, he puts up a strong defence against the series of scandals which have been dogging him. "All those attempts to make us sound crazy or incompetent just don't wash."

Reputed to have cost \$7 million, "The Annunciation", a painting attributed to the 15th-century Netherlandish artist Hieronymus Bosch, was denounced in 1986 by a French art dealer, Alain Tarica. First he said it was a fake, subsequently saying it was a forgery, with much overpaid. "His claims were blatantly silly,"

Walsh says, referring any Doubting Thomases to an extensive article in last July's *Burlington Magazine*.

The second work accused of being fake, and subsequently given a generally clean bill of health (this time by Getty staff member Marion True in the *Burlington*, January 1987) is the Kouros, or ancient statue of a youth, which the Getty dates to the sixth century BC. "Most people were put off by the peculiar surface to the piece," Walsh says. The article does admit to the "eclectic nature" of the work, and the way it poses "serious contradictions" with accepted chronology for such pieces, and certain detractors persist.

Of two other disputed pieces, an archaic relief, and a head of Achilles, Walsh says "the jury is still out" on the first, and admits the museum was conned on the second. He is currently trying to get a refund.

Another scandal concerned a tax fiddle by Jiri Frel, curator of antiquities. Here, the value of prospective gifts was inflated in order to obtain tax relief for the benefactors. "Frel was a dedicated and impressive scholar who built

up the collection. The whole thing has been grossly exaggerated, the number of cases involved being very small in relation to the whole collection."

John Walsh's current headache is the "Malibu Venus," an "akrolithic" statue (meaning a composite of stones, in this case marble and limestone). In August the Italian Press claimed that it had been smuggled out of their country in the 1970s. Interpol asked the LA art fraud squad to investigate on their behalf.

"We simply do not know where it came from or when, and neither does the Italian Minister for Culture," Walsh says, adding that, before buying, he sought and obtained official written confirmation from Italy that there were no pending claims of theft against the work. If it is proven that the sculpture was illegally removed from Italy, he says, the museum will return it.

So what is the true nature of the Getty threat to British heritage? It seemed terrifying back in 1982 when the funds came through with a reputed spending power of \$140 million a year. A Paul Getty Junior, son of the billionaire and living in London, clearly thought

so, when he fortified our National Gallery's purchase fund by £50 million in 1985.

Many of the facts are hidden behind the museum's secretiveness. It will not reveal its purchase grant, or how much anything cost. It prefers buying through dealers partly because of their "quiet confidentiality".

Although it carried off six Old Master drawings from the Chatsworth sale, Mantegna's "Adoration of the Magi" and an important Siennese crucifixion, it has been known to step aside when a given country decides that it wants something badly.

The acquisition policy is clear: European paintings, manuscripts and drawings. It buys English furniture, but only when it is in French taste; Greek and Roman antiquities, but not Egyptian, Pre-Columbian, Japanese or Chinese.

Far more frightening than the "Getty factor," in John Walsh's opinion, are the new marauders on the art scene, the corporate raiders paying tens of millions for Impressionist paintings. "This is corporate money, merger money, limited buy-out money. What their motives are, I don't think anyone knows."

JAZZ

Veteran vigour

Benny Waters
Bull's Head, Barnes

The mortality rate in jazz has been alarmingly high this year, the obituary columns overflowing with distinguished names, from Gil Evans to Al Cohn and "Cleanhead" Vinson. All the more reason, then, to applaud the reeds player Benny Waters. One of nature's irresistible forces and one of the few surviving links with the era of New Orleans and swing. Still active on the European circuit, he celebrated his 86th birthday earlier this year in customary style, with another extensive tour.

Conservatory-trained, Waters spent much of the 1930s with the bandleader Charlie Johnson, at one point recording with King Oliver. Later stints included work with Fletcher Henderson and Jimmie Lunceford. After the war he settled in Paris, where he became one of the regular performers at the celebrated La Cigale club.

He brought all the old influences to bear in his first set at Barnes on Wednesday, with sympathetic support from the Tony Lee Trio. A dapper figure in flat cap and blazer, Waters limbered up with "Strike Up The Band" and "S Wonderful", looping through the choruses on tenor saxophone before switching to alto.

At his advanced age, he might be forgiven for coasting through a session. In reality he keeps up an unremitting pace, cueing in the other members of the band — always the showman — rifling through alto cadenzas.

On tenor, he has often been likened to Coleman Hawkins, his billowing tone harking back to the days when musicians had to get by without the help of amplification. The comparisons were borne out on the ballad "One Of Those", where each phrase was left hanging like over-ripe fruit. In an era dominated by Coltrane imitators, a Waters set is still essential listening. He can be heard at the Prince of Orange in Rotherhithe tonight (Friday) and at the Dean Street Pizza Express tomorrow.

Clive Davis

Interplanetary platitudes

I'm sure this opera is trying to tell us something. We must listen, listen to its story. Once upon a time there was a planet, and all the people who lived there were happy, freed from care by the benevolent overlordship of the greater planet Canopus. Then one day, an ambassador came with bad news: the climate would change; there would be ice. And so they all died. Which would have been sad, except for the fact that they had been such boring people. And anyway the Canopeans still survived, so that was all right.

Doris Lessing's fable, the theme of her novel *The Making of the Representative for Planet 8* from the *Canopus in Argos* series, is suitable for Philip Glass, whose music was mightily embarrassed by the political, psychological and theological ideas it took on board in *Saryagraha* and *Akhmatov*, but is happy as a bird in the soft spirituality and ecological platitudinizing that Lessing has provided in her own libretto.

OPERA

The Making of the Representative for Planet 8
Coliseum

One does pity those who have to perform it. The orchestra and their conductor Michael Lloyd will surely be in danger of becoming as mentally numbed as the inhabitants of Planet 8 by the time the run is over.

Andrew Shore, as the chief Planet 8 spokesman Docg, gives outstanding value, ramming his way through laughable lines in what is a long spoken part, quite besides its songs, which he also does with energy.

Richard Angas as the Canopean ambassador Johor also has some tough dialogue to get through, and also fends off ridicule admirably.

in his case by an icy aloofness. The juvenile leads are Lesley Garrett and Christopher Gillett, she coming and going a little but excellent at her best, he steadily increasing in force.

The production, seen in Houston in the summer, has been restaged for the English National Opera by Harry Silverstein, and looks not quite settled in yet. The sense of wonder, which this opera so badly needs, is intermittent.

But still I am sure the work is trying to tell us something. We should perhaps look for other stories. Once upon a time, there was a composer's head, and all the ideas that lived there were happy, racing up and down scales and arpeggios, rotating through the same progressions. Then someone told the composer his ideas were important. And so they began to behave as if they were. Which would have been sad, except for the fact that they had been such boring ideas.

Paul Griffiths



Play within a play: Cate Hamer in the court performance of *Phaedra*

Better In My Dreams
Watermans Arts Centre

Three brothers belong in folk tales, three sisters in drama. Only one fraternal threesome for the stage comes to mind, in *Richard III*, and two of them failed to make it past Act Two. In plays brothers come in contrasting pairs but, even in the post-feminist era, three sisters are the favoured vessels, like moral barometers in fights, for registering the deeds of men.

In Helen Klinger's play, less interesting than it promised, the

sisters divide into familiar types: one plaintive, one tough (but a victim inside) and one oddball. Their Lithuanian father was a concentration camp guard, who escaped to the US, concealed his past and patriotically named his daughters after three First Ladies. Forty years later his crimes have found him out and, while he waits for judgment in his appeal against extradition to Russia, his daughters fret and bicker.

This production, which I saw at its last preview, is by Union 212, a company responsible for the spell-binding *Petra von Kant* earlier this

Silent mystery

THEATRE

The Love of the Nightingale
The Other Place,
Stratford-upon-Avon

Following Shakespeare's treatment of the Philomel myth in *Titus Andronicus*, the RSC return to it in this study of "the terrible cost of silence" by Timberlake Wertenbaker.

Using Ovid's account of the rape and mutilation of the Athenian princess by her Thracian brother-in-law, Wertenbaker approaches her material like a crackman trying out various keys to unlock its meaning. There are quasi-Attic choruses, who offer reflections on the nature of myth; new episodes are introduced, showing Philomel falling for the ship's captain on the voyage to Thrace. In defiance of Grecian practice, Garry Hynes's production revels in stage violence.

I enjoyed Peter Lennon's crestfallen Tereus. The piece itself — the last before the closure of this invaluable studio house — shows a myth taking its revenge on a tampering intruder.

Irving Wardle

Amanda Boxer gives a nicely observed neurotic Mamma. In a neat touch she reacts to an abusive phone call with astonishment that a person can do such a thing to another human. This irony is a rare example of the author's moral stance.

Klinger herself plays a journalist, more interested in uncovering the daughters' feelings than the father's crimes. Had she succeeded in doing so, a promising dramatic situation might have become a poignant and cathartic drama.

Jeremy Kingston

Two of the best of British

You have only three more nights, ending on Sunday, November 13, to see two of the best dance works made in Britain all year, otherwise you must wait until next spring to see them on Channel 4 or next summer for a tour. The choreographer, Siobhan Davies, who is now back in action after a sabbatical year, is most certainly on a winning streak.

The new company she has assembled consists of just six first-rate dancers. Both the new works she has made for them are in the form that generally suits her best: pieces with no visible story line but a great deal of individual character in the dances.

In *Wyoming* she thought that came to mind as I watched the dancers hungrily exploring space was (as with Davies's *Embarque*, which was created for Rambert Dance Company) of the opening up of America.

DANCE

Siobhan Davies
Riverside

Not that there is much in the movement that is specific to that theme: arms swinging as if to whip on a horse, perhaps, in a lively trio for Lauren Potter with Michael Fulwell and Paul Douglas, and a sense of wearily settling down after a long journey in the final duet for Gill Clarke with Scott Clark.

But David Buckland's setting, mainly a floorcloth painted like a simple map reinforces this idea; so does the steady drive of John-Marc Gowans's soundtrack, relieved at one point by voices, rounded off by a rush of water.

The other work, *White Man*.

Sleeps, takes its title and shape from the music, a thrilling modern string quartet by Kevin Volans. Riverside cannot run to the Kronos quartet, who introduced it to London audiences, but it is played with great spirit by the Degas quartet.

The idiosyncratic motifs of arms held forward or hands circling round a face sometimes seemed to promise a specific meaning that is not deliberate. Otherwise the movement develops mainly as a reaction to a strong, fascinating score. Its shape, like that of the five solos which begin *Wyoming*, is in an idiom familiar in Davies's work, instinctive movement growing from moments of stillness, but the contrasts of speed, texture, direction and patterning are worked through with new mastery. See it.

John Percival



Wyoming swing: Paul Douglas

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FRIDAY PAGE

Journey from despair



Barbara Amiel on the "children" to whom Britain became home after Nazi Germany's most notorious pogrom

Fifty years ago, on November 9, 1938, the worst pogrom the contemporary West has ever seen took place in Germany and Austria. It was the Night of Broken Glass, *Kristallnacht*, the beginning of the end for Europe's Jews. Twelve days later, at 7.30pm, Mr Noel-Baker, MP for Derby, rose in the British House of Commons to move a motion on behalf of the refugees. "Dr Goebbels said the other day," he told the House, "that he hoped the outside world would soon forget the German Jews. He hopes in vain. His campaign against them will go down in history with St Bartholomew's Eve as a lasting memory of human shame..."

Stirring words. But the Government of Neville Chamberlain was not yet convinced. Where would all these Jews go? Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare worried that mass immigration of Jews to England might create "damage to British employment or to British labour". Still, there was one small light. Hoare had received a "very interesting proposal about the non-Aryan children of Germany" from Lord Samuel and a number of other Jewish leaders. Hoare had agreed to issue visas for 10,000 Jewish children so long as there were British guarantors for their maintenance.

The first *Kindertransportes* left Germany via the Hook of Holland less than three weeks later and continued till just before war broke out. Almost 10,000 children under the age of 16 arrived in England. They landed clutching one suitcase and wearing labels around their necks or on the lapels of their coats.



Survivors: Hardy and Johanna Verstandig were two of the 10,000 German children who came to England. They met and married here

Virtually all of them would lose their parents, grandparents and any remaining relative to the extermination camps. Many lost sisters and brothers when parents had only one or two visas for the whole family.

Talking today to a random selection of some of the adults in their fifties and sixties who were the children on those transports is a continuing journey in pain. Mrs Johanna Verstandig, of Stanmore, Middlesex (whose husband Hardy also came on one of the transports) still searches for her brothers Joseph and Bernard Dakar. Her parents only had visas for two children and so the girls were sent out first. Her mother and her mother's six brothers and sisters all vanished. Her father, too. When she and her sister arrived in England they were separated.

Loss and separation are recurring themes. "I am in touch with my brother," says Mrs Bessie Barnett, of London, "but there is nobody at all in the family otherwise." Memories of the journey and arrival are dim now. The children concentrated their lives on establishing

some kind of security. "I started out in domestic service," explains Mrs Barnett, "but I didn't want to do all that washing and cleaning for 12s/6d a week. I got married at 18 to a Jewish Englishman."

Felix Hutter, now owner of a London company making hospital and scientific equipment, remembers only the train speeding across Germany and the admonition by the adults accompanying the children to be polite to the SS officers who would board at Frankfurt-Am-Main.

Of course, what remains so difficult to comprehend is the fact that there were so many Jews left in Germany and Austria by the end of 1938. "I lay in my bed listening to the noise of those terrible songs the Hitler youth sang," says Mrs Bianca Gordon, of Harpenden, "and I was afraid. I knew. But my parents kept hoping. My father was a pious man; a religious Jew."

Such naivety is not difficult to understand in one sense. For most German Jews, the reality of the last 100 years had been the century of German liberalism. Despite the

existing social prejudices, for at least four or five generations before Hitler, the Jews had every reason to regard themselves as Germans.

Outside Germany, there were a small group of people who knew what was really going on during the Thirties. One only has to look at a 1939 British White Paper on treatment of German Nationals in Germany to see the hideous accounts of conditions at Buchenwald concentration camp. But the world of the people who compile and read white papers is small. And the Jews had two trends to fight during the Thirties.

First, there remained a pre-war generation who still believed in "civilization" and who simply could not conceive of the nature of totalitarianism. At the same time, the Jews in Europe were the unintended victims of the First World War's propaganda battle. The notion of propaganda had become very much discredited. The casual manner in which some

politicians listened to Noel-Baker's speech was not simply a reflection of callousness.

These two instincts combined. Some of those people who could have — and would have — helped the Jews realized only gradually how "final" the solution was meant to be. And so came *Kristallnacht*.

Is there anything to learn on this fiftieth anniversary of that terrible night? The world has seen many pogroms since then and forgotten their names. There have been pogroms in India, in the Middle East, in Africa, in Asia. Perhaps we only remember *Kristallnacht* because unlike most of these pogroms it led to a holocaust. But what we ought to learn is simple: to recognize incipient totalitarianism and to understand that whenever a group of peaceable people are attacked in their houses and businesses, that is *Kristallnacht*. And like Albert Camus's plague, it just never seems to die.

Popping the corks

What I want to find in the heel of my Christmas stocking this year is not the usual dreary orange but one of Liberty's useful little wine corksaws, *Jane MacQuitty writes.*

Wine buffs can never have too many screwball corksaws (£9.95) and for speedy work at Christmas parties, I would like another of the spin-handled variety (£11.45) or another screwball foil cutter (£5.35) that whisks even those tough plastic capsules from bottles in seconds.

Everyone overdoes it at Christmas, so perhaps my stocking should also contain a restorative box of calming "Morning After" sachets (£2.95): just pop one in a mug, add hot water and sip... ah.

I also need a new champagne twist, an ingenious device that shifts stubborn champagne corks with ease. Liberty sells a stylish chrome champagne twist for £18.75 and a cheaper version in a set with a champagne stopper.

On November 29 and December 6, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, readers of *The Times* can enjoy an exclusive shopping spree in Liberty stores nationwide. Guests will be greeted with a glass of wine and a gift, and your ticket gives automatic entry to a prize draw. Every purchase of £50 or over earns a £5 gift voucher.

Visitors to the Regent Street store in London, will also be eligible for reduced price tickets (£2) to the Henry Moore and Toulouse-Lautrec exhibitions at the Royal Academy on November 29 and December 6, and an in-store box office will offer on-the-spot bookings for London Festival Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (the store's Christmas theme) from December 26 to January 14.

Various *Times* experts, among them Jane MacQuitty, will be on hand to advise readers. Authors such as Kaffie Fassett, Melvyn Bragg (on December 6) and Philip Howard, literary editor of *The Times*, will be signing copies of their most recent books: *Kaffie Fassett at the V&A*; *Rich: The Life of Richard Burton*; and *Word-watching*. Raymond Keene, *The Times* chess correspondent, will be taking on challengers and signing copies of the new edition of *Batsford Chess Openings*, of which he is co-author.

To apply for tickets to *The Times* Liberty Shopping Evening, complete the coupon below, stating the branch you wish to visit and ticking the box for the evening on which you prefer to attend. Tickets are limited to one per application and admit two. Cut out your completed coupon and send it to: *The Times* at Liberty, PO Box 175, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2WA, to arrive no later than Tuesday, November 22. We will try to issue invitations for the evening of your preference, but reserve the right to allocate another date if maximum numbers are reached.

The shopping evenings will be held at the following Liberty stores: New Bond Street, Bath; Trinity Street, Cambridge; Burgess, Canterbury; The Promenade, Chesham; Bridge Street, Chester; George Street, Edinburgh; Buchanan Street, Glasgow; Market Street, Guildford; Church Street, Kingston upon Thames; King Street, Manchester; London Street, Norwich; High Street, Oxford; Regent Street, London; Catherine Street, Salisbury; and Dargate, York.

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Alternative French cooking

Nutritional data on earthworms is one of the items in Dawn French's new television series on food, *Scoff*. Apparently when blanched and dried they taste just like bacon rind, and they contain four essential amino acids.

This is more likely to make the stomach churn than the mouth water. But the last thing an "alternative comedian" like French wanted to do was make the type of reverential homage to *haute cuisine* that has foodie viewers reaching for their Sabatiers and fresh sorrel.

The seven-part series looks at the how and why of eating as much as the what. It includes items on junk food, fast food, prison food, West Indian, Welsh and American cookery, religious considerations in eating, a guide to surviving in the wild, and the use of foodstuffs for cosmetics.

Although it devotes much time to genuinely good food, it is as likely to celebrate the achievements of ordinary people. "The Liverpool housewife who can produce a three-course meal for seven for a fiver."

French says: "We made a conscious decision not to have those 'hip' guests you usually get, the top chefs and so on. And we didn't want recipes. But we've tried to be as eclectic as possible."

French is no cook herself. "I blame boarding school. I had one cookery lesson — we made madeleines. I can even remember sprinkling the coconut on them — before we had to choose between cooking and chemistry. And because my parents were spending this huge amount of money sending me to a good academic school, it had to be chemistry."

At home, her husband, comedian Lenny Henry, makes most of the meals. "He cooks anything and everything. He's very good and he's not afraid of risk."

French likes most things (apart from liver, seafood... and worms) but what she really adores is "starch and stodge". "If we've eaten out, say, three times in a week, I reach the stage where I can't bear the sight of another tiny lamb cutlet in a drop of sauce. It's only when my stomach is

Why is Dawn French presenting a food programme? Liz Gill reports



Funny foodie: Dawn French feeling secure on a full stomach

really full that I feel secure and happy, which is why I'm the size I am."

She is a size 18 and about 5ft 2in tall, but she gave up worrying about her weight long ago. "I must have been about seven or eight when I realized that you could be big and unhappy, or big and happy. Big and unhappy meant constant dieting... big and happy meant eating what you wanted and getting on with your life."

Her clothes are made by top designers such as Jasper Conran and Betty Jackson — "I say 'I like that suit of yours I saw on that size 2 beanpole' and they make one for me" — and she plans to open a shop next year selling good clothes for big women.

"Sixty-five per cent of the women in this country are over a size 16 yet their choice of clothing often boils down to a nylon tent. In my shop 16 to 18 will be small, 18 to 22 will

be medium and 22 plus will just be known as gorgeous. And we'll have chocolate bar machines inside the shop."

French is a self-confessed chocoholic.

"When we filmed at the Smarties factory, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Nothing puts me off, not even the sight of a great glob of gel being put in to polish them up. "It really is terrible what we allow in this country in the way of preservatives and additives. The trouble is I suppose that they make things taste so good. I remember once going to Jamaica to meet some of Lenny's relatives and we went to see an auntie who cooked us a chicken. It was marvellous. I'd seen her put a handful of something special in it so I asked her what it was. She showed me a sack of monosodium glutamate."

At 31, French's life is crowded. She and her friend and partner Jennifer Saunders have their own Christmas special lined up and a UK tour of live appearances is planned for the new year.

This has meant a lot of writing: they do it by getting to the Comic Strip offices in Soho at 9am and staying to 6pm. "It's like doing five months of homework."

French has also just completed an environment awareness video in which she plays Mother Earth, dressed as the globe. "I was made for this part," she says. Saunders has two small children: French would like some, too but not for a while. "Do you think it will be possible when I am 50?"

Surprisingly for a performer, she does not like having her photograph taken. "Why do I keep seeing all these wonderful pictures of Emma Thompson looking beautiful and talented? I think she might have to go into hospital soon. I think I might have to put her there."

One of the programmes features the latest kitchen gadgets and she took a selection home. "I'm going to make a meal entirely of garnishes — tomato flowers, fancy radishes, cucumber spirals... with madeleines to follow."

© Scoff is on Channel 4 on Tuesdays at 11pm from November 15.

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A just claim to excellence

Israel relies increasingly upon science and technology to further its economic development, and owes much to the hard work at the Weizmann Institute.

Pearce Wright considers the scope and value of the centre's research

An exhibition called "The Heart of Israel" opens at London's Alexandra Palace this week. It is a display of cultural and economic life, marking the first 40 years of nationhood.

One of the themes is the increasing dependence on science and technology for the development of the country with a population of only four million.

The momentum behind the remarkable strides in Israel's research is provided by seven universities, of which two are dedicated to science and engineering, and have made internationally significant advances in bio-medical science and computer technology.

But Israel's right to a seat at the table of international science has been earned to a large extent through one of its most unusual teaching and research centres, the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot near Tel Aviv, named after the country's first president.

It is an entirely postgraduate teaching establishment with facilities for 500 students studying for doctoral and masters degrees in science. Teaching staff come from the 600 researchers, divided into faculties of biology, biophysics-biochemistry, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

The bulk of the work is interdisciplinary research, influenced by the 13 research institutes on the campus whose projects embrace all departments.

The Weizmann is a private foundation, like all Israeli universities, and has an annual budget of \$80 million (£44.4 million): 33 per cent each from government and research contracts from home and abroad, 30 per cent from philanthropy, and 4 per cent

from royalties that are invested in new research.

Israel is suffering more than most countries that have a properly organized policy on research and high technology linked to higher education. Over the past 10 years, government support has fallen from 55 per cent of the total, as spending on security has risen.

While the academic world traditionally divides sciences into pure and applied research, Professor Michael Sella, one of the recent architects of the Weizmann's success, prefers to speak about "basic science and the applicability of science".

"The justification for the Institute is only if its work is first class by international standards. If an Institute like ours is just good and not excellent, then it is difficult to justify"

Professor Haim Harari

Professor Sella, an immunology expert, believes: "It is those who steadfastly pursue knowledge for its own sake, and who do so in their own good time, who actually take mankind a step forward."

Professor Sella's own work includes the development of methods for making synthetic molecules that can be employed as novel vaccines that avoid the side-effects associated with substances made from a denatured strain of the infectious organism.

He is also engaged on a long-term investigation, with doctors at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, into a possible approach

to treating multiple sclerosis. If the research is successful, the scientists hope to produce a method of preventing the disabling episodes connected with the disorder by regular injections with a substance code-named COP 1.

The limited money available to Israeli scientists puts one limit on the choice of subjects for research, by excluding them from building the huge items of equipment that are regarded today as Big Science, like radio telescopes and giant particle accelerators used by the high energy physicists at CERN near Geneva, or Brookhaven in the US.

Professor Sella said: "We know it is not for Israel to get into big machines. In fact, the policy at the Weizmann is one of backing people rather than disciplines. Whatever the subject, it is still increasingly expensive to provide first-rate equipment and a first rate environment."

The latest brilliant young researcher to be backed on the "people rather than discipline oriented policy" is about to move into a new building on the campus constructed especially for her experimental apparatus. Professor Hadassa Degani is working on the frontiers of research into the recent discoveries in NMR, or nuclear magnetic resonance imaging.

NMR is in effect a safe new camera for taking pictures of organs of the body without recourse to X-rays. The images are computer-produced by analyzing the pattern of tiny magnetic signals emitted from every cell in the body. Small, deep-seated tumours in the chest or abdomen can be located, as can brain damage, that are almost impossible to see any other way.

Professor Degani is employing NMR in a way which could be used to tell doctors the best way to treat the cancer. It also avoids the need for a biopsy. She has found that tumour cells respond in different ways to the same anti-cancer drug. Her results provide a profile of the chemical characteristics of individual tumours, showing which ones will be responsive to specific treatment.

Professor Degani believes

that the new NMR equipment coming into hospitals could be modified to make the analyses that will guide doctors in the choice of drugs best suited to the condition of the tumour.

Each faculty at the Weizmann comes in for periodic scrutiny by an independent, international Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee. It has been meeting in Rehovot this month, and includes Sir John Kendrew from Cambridge, the Nobel prize winner in molecular biology, and biologist Professor Nicholas Mitchison, from

University College, London.

Even so, tussles arise over the definition between basic and applied research by which projects are chosen. A dispute surrounds the other major project about to come into operation involving solar energy.

Development of roof-top solar water heaters in Israel began over 30 years ago, but 70 per cent of the country's energy still comes from fossil fuels. While efficient domestic solar panels have been developed, the possibility of energy self-sufficiency by collecting solar energy in bulk in the neighbouring deserts and getting it to where it is needed — the cities and industry — has been a forlorn dream.

The answer lies, hopefully, in an idea of Professor Israel Dostrovsky, for trapping the sun's rays and concentrating them 10,000 times to convert the energy into a useful form.

The object is to convert solar energy to a chemical form so that it can be stored and transported, over thousands of miles if need be, to the consumer. An elaborate array of mirrors focuses the solar energy on the equipment that is used for the conversion.

In practice, the process involves passing a mixture of methane gas and steam through a reactor containing a suitable catalyst heated to

1,800 degrees F. The components react to produce a gas consisting of three parts hydrogen to one part of carbon monoxide — synthesis gas — which was used as a fuel for gas lamps before electricity, and is used today to make ammonia and industrial alcohol.

According to professor Dostrovsky's plan, the production would be done in the Negev desert, and the gas, piped to urban areas, would replace oil and coal.

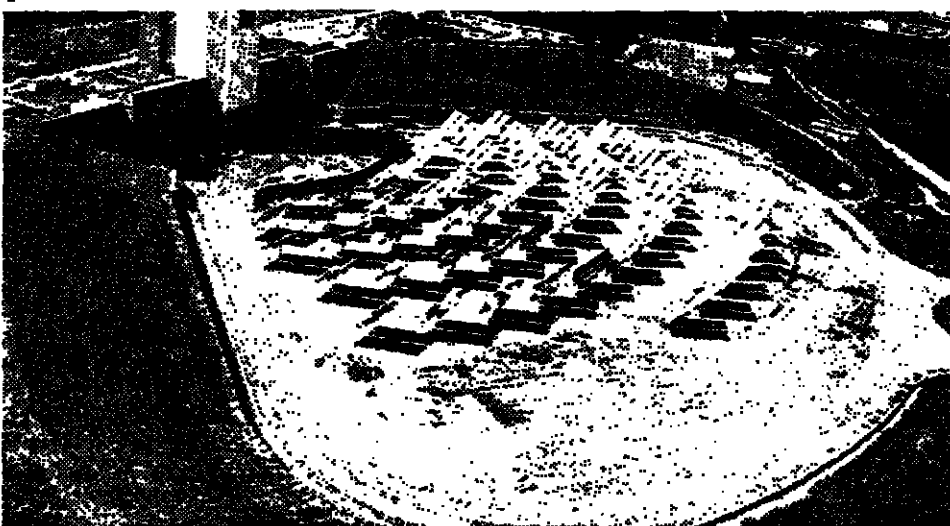
While arguments persist inevitably over the choice of research, the Weizmann and its companion universities have recognized there is profit in promoting the research done by their academic departments.

An organization called the Yeda Trust has been established at the Weizmann, that retains the right to the patents and royalties that may come from the institute's discoveries, ploughing them back into specific projects, rather than letting the money be absorbed into the day-to-day overheads.

Under the chairmanship of Professor David Mirelman, professor of bio-physics, Yeda is seeking companies with which to form partnerships for the commercial development stage of discoveries.



President elect of the Weizmann Institute, Professor Haim Harari, above left, assumes the five year post next month and right, Professor Hadassa Degani of the department of isotope research breaks new frontiers in the treatment of cancer. Below, solar energy experiments focus on the development of processes and technologies that will make it possible to substitute solar energy for oil in the industrial and domestic sectors.



An improved sampling technique for early warning of impending pollution to underground water resources designed by Professor M Magaritz of the Weizmann Institute, left, and Daniel Ronen of the Water Commission

Unearthing one disturbing new implication

A major new source of the "greenhouse" gases that are threatening the world's climate has been discovered by a team working with Professor Mordechai Magaritz, a geologist at the Weizmann Institute. Their discovery has disturbing implications for all the industrialized countries and many Third World ones, writes Pearce Wright.

The discovery which was purely accidental, came from studies in Israel and the Netherlands on the effect of underground aquifers used for drinking water supplies of pollution that slowly filters through the soil.

The scientists discovered that waste water used for irrigation in Israel and acid rain in Europe had similar effects on the natural underground reservoirs into which they filtered slowly, sometimes over a period of 15-20 years. The finding was made with the help of an instrument invented by Professor Magaritz's group for analyzing water in an aquifer at intervals of three centimetres from the top to bottom.

In effect, the researchers reversed the process used by geologists of obtaining a core of rock, taking it back to the laboratory, where it cut into slices for examination. Instead, they devised a 4-metre long plastic pipe that was divided into 38 discrete cells; each capable of measuring a sample of water for salinity, mineral content and dissolved gases.

Several pipes could be

linked together. When the instrument was lowered into the aquifer, signals from the cells analyzing the water were relayed by cable to a recorder on the surface. The measurements replaced the standard method of taking samples of water from the borehole from which water was being pumped from a production well, and monitoring them in the laboratory.

The Weizmann team found that most routine measurements came from water from the bottom of the production wells. Tests made with the new instrument were equivalent to examining a "core" of water.

In taking a profile from top to bottom, the new studies showed that the top layer of some of the world's major aquifers were being contaminated by an unrecognized form of pollution in ground water resources.

The pollution is being produced by a combination of nitrates coming from fertilizers used in intensive agriculture and nitrates derived from acid rain. The trouble arises from the combination of microscopic particles or organic matter that filter slowly through the soil with the nitrate laden water.

In the aquifer, these organic materials are slowly decomposed in a process of nitrification that is breaking down the waste, but generating nitrous oxide. One of the most serious greenhouse gases.

St Michael



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Bone marrow transplant pioneer: Dr Yair Ransner, of the biophysics department, with a "bubble child" he treated

Blending skills to save lives

Scientists at the Weizmann Institute are engaged in scores of research projects encompassing and uniting a wide variety of disciplines.

Professor Moshe Feldman, for example, is taking advantage of the fact that the wild "mother of cultivated wheat" still grows in Israel, and is increasing the protein content of cultivated bread wheat.

By introducing some of the original genes into commercial strains, he has managed to raise it by a significant 6 per cent. He is also applying genetic engineering to reducing the nitrogen requirements of certain cereal plants. This could make a significant contribution to cutting pollution caused by artificial fertilizers.

Dr Yair Ransner, of the biophysics department, who pioneered the development of bone marrow transplants to treat "bubble chamber children" suffering from immune deficiency disease, is investigating whether his method of preparing bone marrow could be used to treat leukaemia and various kinds of severe anaemia.

Two years ago he was invited by the Soviet authorities to treat victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

Professor David Dahan, a former president of the International Association of Gerontology, who recently took part in an international symposium on the biology of ageing at the Weizmann Institute, believes that because of experiments directed towards alleviating many of the ill effects of ageing, "new treatments are expected to move from labs to clinics in the near future".

By linking a camera to a computer and different three-dimensional objects, Professor Shimon Ullman and his colleagues in the applied mathematics department, are tackling one of the most difficult

problems of artificial intelligence: computer vision that includes recognition of 3-D objects regardless of the viewing angle.

These experiments should lead to a better understanding of the human processes involved in visual recognition. In the very distant future, computer vision could enable the blind to drive cars.

WIS neurobiologists, under professor Michal Schwartz,



Michael Sela, past president of the Weizmann Institute collaborating with scientists in other institutes in Israel and the United States, have been able to induce limited nerve regeneration in the central nervous systems of living mammals.

They did this by exposing severely injured optic nerves to nerve growth-promoting substances from fish, combining it with short, daily exposures to low energy laser beams.

Although they believe that these experiments have a great potential medical application, they warn that it is much too soon to predict whether they could, one day, be used to heal human injuries.

Andrew Wiseman

The battle for better teaching

By Andrew Wiseman

The Weizmann Institute, which is divided into five faculties — biophysics, biochemistry, chemistry, mathematics and physics — also houses a special Youth Activities Section (YAS) founded in 1972.

It is the inspiration of the late professor Amos de-Shalit, a distinguished nuclear physicist, who believed that "The science of today is the environment of tomorrow".

In the 1960s he became alarmed at the low level and out-of-date science teaching in Israeli schools, which, at the time, totally ignored the vital inter-relationships between scientific disciplines.

Worried about the great damage done by "the continued propagation of old and irrelevant details and the

very many instances in which wrong things are being taught only because the courses are prepared by people who, for many years, have been out of touch with developments in their field", he decided to do something about it.

Many professors at the institute became involved in activities directly connected with improving science teaching in schools. They studied curricula and textbooks from abroad, especially Britain and the United States, translated them into Hebrew, when this seemed appropriate, or devised new curricula. Some also contributed to the development of the incipient educational television programme.

Today, YAS brings together more than 6,000 science-oriented young-

sters, matched each year with more than 150 youth-oriented scientists and graduates of the institute.

They are engaged in such varied ventures as weekly science clubs, a full-day intensive science field school, popular science lectures, science fairs, mathematics olympiads, summer science workshops for Israeli children aged between 10 and 18, as well as an international summer science institute.

The section is also responsible for setting up thriving science clubs throughout the country, special programmes in which disadvantaged children are taught on a one-to-one basis, and a "Garden of

Science" in the grounds of the Institute, where children can handle the many outdoor exhibits.

One of its most innovative schemes is the International Summer Science Institute for Israeli and foreign pre-university students aged between 16 and 18. It was launched 25 years ago, and this July more than 70 budding scientists from Israel and 17 other countries (including Britain) gathered at the Weizmann Institute for three weeks to work with WIS researchers.

The programme is run in English, and each participant can choose a subject in accordance with his or her own interest, be it biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and other disciplines.

Students could be dealing with

such diverse subjects as structural differences between normal and malignant tumour cells, the application of lasers or the use of computers in modelling and simulation. At the end of the course every student must present a seminar and write a thesis on the completed work.

This done, the group moves for one week to the Negev desert to observe and study its ecology, biology, geology and climatology, before visiting other parts of Israel as tourists.

● A level student who would like to be considered for the 1989 WIS International Summer Science Institute, should contact: The Executive Director, Weizmann Institute Foundation, 14/15 Rodmarton St, London W1H 3FW. (01-486 3954).

Towards a cancer vaccine

Having successfully immunized mice against the spread of lung cancer (by turning malignant cells into benign ones), professor Michael Feldman, head of the Weizmann Institute cell biology department, believes that further experiments could in time lead to a cancer vaccine.

writes Andrew Wiseman

He and his colleagues are also investigating the relationship between metastasis (the transfer of malignant tumour cells through blood vessels or the lymphatic system from one part of the body to another) and oncogenes, (genes which induce new tumours), and why some malignant tumour cells are more likely to spread than others and sometimes only travel to certain parts of the body.

Initially they investigated how enzymes, particularly two, known as collagenase type IV and plasminogen activator, influenced the early stages of tumour cell spread. Both are known to break down the walls of blood vessels, allowing cancer cells to enter the blood stream and reach their destination.

Benign and malignant tumours produce different amounts of collagenase type IV, but both metastatic and non-metastatic cells secrete similar quantities. By cloning two common mouse tumours (3LL and T10), and testing their ability to metastasize, the team established that collagenase IV was an important factor in the spread of tumours of metastatic and non-metastatic clones.

Wondering whether the immune system was perhaps unable to differentiate accurately between metastasizing and non-metastasizing tumour cells, the Weizmann team then examined a group of molecules (H-2D and H-2K) involved in identifying foreign bodies, and established that cells from a highly metastasizing mouse carcinoma clone had high amounts of H-2D on their surface but very little H-2K. Non-metastasizing cells had similar amounts of both H-2D and H-2K.

Later, when mice were in-



Professor Michael Feldman: A major role in the development of cancer immunotherapy



Hopeful results: Finding answers to the question why some malignant cells are more likely to spread than others

directed to oncogenes, which when switched on — contribute to tumour growth. The question remained: do oncogenes influence metastasis and, if so, are the same oncogenes involved in the spread of malignancy and metastasis?

The Weizmann researchers proved that normally a specific oncogene, named FOS, is not switched on in malignant cells with a high metastatic potential. But when FOS is given gamma interferon, it is switched on, ultimately producing H-2K.

Although this research could play a major role in the development of cancer immunotherapy, Professor Feldman warns that it is far from clear whether his findings are applicable to human beings.

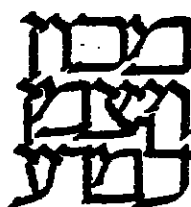
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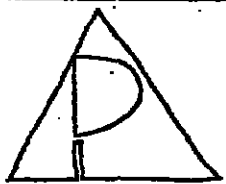
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MOTORING

Edited by Daniel Ward

Belt-up at the back, says law

The seat-belt law is getting tougher. Next year it is likely that children under 14 will have to belt-up when riding in the back seat

The child who screams blue murder when clicked into a seat-belt will cause parents more than a little despair in future because the mandatory wearing of rear seat-belts by children under 14 is no longer a case of if, but when.

Mindful of a £50 fine, or at least a ticking-off from an observant policeman, parents will doubtless switch their angry admonishment at the beginning of every journey from "You must wear a seat-belt, it is much safer," to "The policeman will tell you off if you don't."

After the success of Stephen Day's private member's Bill, the fine detail of the legislation is now being prepared by the Department of Transport and is likely to become law in 1989. Children under 14 in the back seats of cars will have to wear a seat-belt or restraint. On a school run where there are more children than seats, every seat-belt fitted must be in use.

Parents who today allow their infants to stand perilously between the front seats, in danger of being

Mothers are better at ensuring child safety

launched through the windscreen in an accident, or free to roam around the car's interior, face the daunting task of getting their children to belt-up and not defiantly undo the harness before the end of the journey.

Researchers claim that fathers are worse than mothers at ensuring that children are securely belted-up.

Many people believe it is safer for children to ride in the rear rather than in the front with a seat-belt, but the reverse is true.

Seat-belts reduce by up to 70 per cent the risk of death or serious injury, mostly from head impact.

Of the 300 rear-seat passengers killed and 27,000 injured each year, 94 per cent fail to wear seat-belts. To this figure can be added the front-seat passengers who are injured by the rear passengers being hurled forward in a crash.

Safety experts warn that even in slow-speed crashes the loads on the

front occupants can double and injuries can prove fatal when rear passengers are catapulted forward.

Fewer than one in seven children up to the age of 13, killed or injured when travelling in the rear of cars, wore seat-belts. They are fitted to half the cars in which children travel yet fewer than four out of 10 make use of them. More than half of all babies are now carried in safety seats or restraints yet only one in five children above the age of about five wear some sort of seat-belt.

Stand at school gates and watch the fleets of cars disgorging their human contents every morning, and you soon appreciate that unhappily, only the minority have to release seat-belts or safety harnesses before clambering on to the pavement and into school.

Many parents buy child safety seats in a rush, and pay more than anything swears their choice. Little consideration is given to whether the child is going to be comfortable and safe, or if the seat fits correctly in the car. It is easy to assume there is little to choose between the different designs; I know, because I have been in the same position, writes Daniel Ward.

The naivety of this approach became obvious after I talked to John Lyus, managing director of the In-Car Safety Centre at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, and a leading child seat expert.

Before considering what type of seat is best, it is essential to have rear seat-belts fitted - whatever the age of the child. Several years ago the popular method, particularly in a hatchback or estate car, was to fit a cross-bar behind the rear seats to which the child seat harnesses could be attached. With so many seats on the market designed for use with conventional adult belts, the cross-bar is considerably more expensive and less versatile.

Rear inertia-reel belts should not cost more than £20 each and, since the mid-1970s, most cars have been made with belt-securing points. A seat-belt fitting centre is likely to charge less than a franchised dealer for installing the belts.

The car seat "ladder" starts at birth. For the new-born baby there is the option of a carry-cot strapped to the back seat but, as Mr Lyus points out, the straps hardly secure the baby, who will doubtless protest



Family car crash peril: a test shot with non-belted dummies by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory

Looking after the youngsters

at being able to see nothing but the rear-view mirror. Rear-facing seats fitted to the front passenger seat are much better because the force of a crash is taken across the baby's whole back.

Many hospitals now have loan schemes for rear-facing child seats. These cost from £11 to £15 for the nine months in which the baby can safely use the seat, compared with £38 to buy one from a shop.

The Kangol Carrycot (£40) is one of the most popular. The handle allows you to carry a sleeping baby without disturbance when leaving the car and the adjustable stay ensures the seat is firmly balanced when set down. These portable seats are much more usable.

The experts prefer designs that

hold the baby securely in the seat's harness with the adult belt holding only the safety seat. It is also important to check that the front seat-belt is long enough to stretch round the child seat when the car's seat is pushed back fully.

An alternative to these birth-to-nine-month seats is one that can be used first for rear-facing and later turned round and placed in the rear for children between the age of nine months and four years. Seats such as the Britax 2-Way (£50) fall into this category. It is certainly comfortable for a baby with its padded sides to cushion the baby's head. The car's seat-belt holds the seat firmly in place, both in the front and rear. The seat is also high enough to give

the child an interesting view. Many older designs fail in this respect. However, the Britax seat cannot be balanced on the floor nor reclined when used for older children.

Parents should check their intended purchase to see how easy it is to adjust and release the harness and how firmly the adult belt or twin fixing straps hold the child seat. If it is not secure, a different make may be more suitable.

He does not like the way the KL Super Traveller can slip sideways, and the older Kangol Dream seat also had this problem.

Four-year-olds will outgrow most safety seats and for children this age the traditional choice has been a cheap booster seat. Yet they are uncomfortable for the youngster who has fallen asleep and has nowhere to prop his or her head.

Kangol's Duo seat is an attempt at a solution but, in practice, it fails badly. Glenoi's German-designed Kiddie seat is far better. It provides the lateral support of a well-shaped adult seat and the sides give support to sleepy heads. The polystyrene design makes it light, so it can be removed easily from the car, and the useful table improves safety.

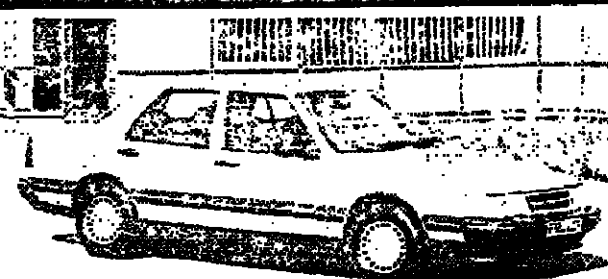
KL Jeany has introduced the similar Super Voyager seat for children aged from nine months to seven years.

Child seats are not cheap, yet to realize their value you have only to witness, as I did recently, a youngster survive a nasty-looking crash unscathed - thanks to being properly strapped in.



Sitting pretty and safe: two car seats for youngsters of different ages

ROADTEST Saab CDi



Value for style

Hatchbacks have always had an uneasy presence in the executive car market where Mercedes and BMW set the tone with dogged loyalty to saloons with a large boot, writes Daniel Ward.

Big saloons have prestige; hatchbacks have no work harder to establish breeding. Significantly, Ford is preparing to emulate Rover by offering both saloon and hatchback versions of its top model.

In January, Saab launched the £20,000 turbocharged CDi saloon based on the 9000 hatchback, and following in its wake is the cheaper fuel-injected CDi derivative. Starting at £15,500, this new Saab must compete with the BMW 520i, 190 Mercedes and British executive cars such as the Rover 800.

Among this company, the previous 16-valve four-cylinder engine was too harsh and unresponsive to be competitive. However, the power output of the CDi has been improved by a modest 5bhp to 135bhp and, more significantly, it pulls more strongly in the mid-range.

The top speed is a moderate 120mph.

A series of detail improvements have made the 2-litre four-cylinder quieter and sweeter when revving.

The engine is not the only source of noise to have been quietened in a bid to give the big Saab an air of class missing before. The latest generation of tyres, designed with executive cars in mind, have reduced road roar, and the suspension absorbs potholes without noisy protest. The squeaks and rattles have been eliminated from the interior.

Now the Saab's refinement is what the buyer would expect for the price.

Ride comfort, previously acceptable rather than impressive, is better as the new tyres

help smother smaller bumps and road harshness. The tyres have also improved the steering, which was previously criticized for being too light in weighting and lacking feel.

If the handling lacks the sharpness of a 5 Series BMW, few executives will mind. The Saab sacrifices little, remaining hugely competent and predictable with particularly good stability on poor surfaces taken at speed.

On demanding roads, the Swedish car gives nothing away to its rivals and proves a surprisingly enjoyable driver's car.

This is not matched by its appearance. Practicality is on 'Unassuming design taken to the extreme'

the side of the CDi as the interior is superbly roomy and the driving position well thought out. The 23.8 cu ft boot is only about 2 cu ft bigger than the hatchback. Yet the styling takes unassuming design to the extreme, leaving the question open as to whether it really looks like a £16,000 car.

The supposed fighter plane heritage stops with the instrument binnacle.

But at least the interior has been smartened up and now looks more expensive - though the wood veneer fascia of the CDi looks wholly out of place.

The new Saab is not cheap as most owners will want electric windows, mirrors and a sunroof which add £1,300 to the basic price. Add alloy wheels, leather-faced seats and wooden bits and the price is lifted to almost £18,000. Cheaper than an equivalent BMW maybe, but there are much faster executive cars on the market at the price.

The CDi may look unexciting but it is a much better engineered and built car than its forerunners.

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Edited by
Derek HarrisCatering along
the right lines

Five years ago Allen Jones became the first private caterer to be allowed to take a trolley on to British Rail trains. Now he is head of a group of companies which has 14 franchisees, with between six and 30 employees each, serving travellers' needs on more than 500 trains a day from 23 bases in the Midlands, the north of England, Scotland and Wales.

It was, he recalls, originally a long job persuading British Rail to let out a contract to take a food and drink trolley on any of its services. Now British Rail comes to him, inviting him to tender for the

**Robin Young meets
an entrepreneur
who's giving BR
passengers the
airline treatment**

catering on more and more of its lines.

When British Rail finally succumbed to Mr Jones's pleas that he be allowed to give rail travellers a fairer deal on trains without buffet cars, it agreed that he should push his cart on the trains between Rhyl and Chester.

It was not the busiest line, or likely to be the most lucrative, but Mr Jones, who had previously been running a company selling remote-control televisions, abandoned a promising business and started to get up at 5am to help make the sandwiches which he, a partner and two girl employees would sell during the day.

"To be frank, with no previous catering experience to draw on, I copied the Marks & Spencer sandwich, which I liked myself. My customers were families and the main-

stay had to be a first-class sandwich," he says.

It was hard work, but appreciated by the travellers. The new company was called Rightline, and Mr Jones immediately adopted uniforms styled after those of airline stewards and stewardesses, and determined that Rightline would set itself high standards of service that would never be compromised.

"I would rather finish the business than drop the standard," he says.

Mr Jones was allowed to take his trolleys on longer journeys, eventually operating them on the trains all the way from Holyhead to Manchester.

In May, 1987 Rightline was awarded the trans-Pennine routes between Liverpool and Newcastle upon Tyne, Holyhead and Hull.

"The only way we could expand on to such a large scale of operations was to franchise," he says. "We had to maintain management control by having the people who were running the catering in other areas having a vested interest in seeing that it was done right."

Franchisees pay for the specially-designed trolleys,



Time for a snack: Rightline franchisee Pamela Haddock serving BR passengers

(which cost £2,500 each) and uniforms, and are responsible for purchasing their own stock. Rightline has a list of essentials which must be carried, including fresh fruit and some healthy snacks, but local operators are allowed to experiment and introduce new lines if they wish.

Eight inspectors from headquarters board trains at random to inspect the trolleys and police standards. The rents for franchisees are calculated to cover the costs of headquarters management, and of maintaining the bases from which the trolleys are serviced.

Upfront costs for new franchisees are not high, and need, indeed, be nothing. NatWest is so confident of Rightline's operations that it has lent franchisees, the whole

of the initial stake Mr Jones was willing to accept if necessary.

In May this year, Rightline won more contracts on British Rail's new "Sprinter" trains — on Midland routes between Blackpool and Ipswich; Liverpool and Norwich; Birmingham, Norwich and Chester. And in Scotland, franchisees operate with each other to cover for staff sickness, holidays, and accidents.

The Rightline trolley has been perfected to a standard which, Mr Jones says, his BR rival, InterCity On-Board Catering, has imitated but not equalled. Rightline is easily the largest private caterer on BR trains, but more and more small companies are competing for the business.

An American example of a firm which recognizes the efficiency of smallness —

Pamela Haddock, with a background in business administration, and the business is now being computerized.

It is, Mr Jones and Mrs Haddock both point out, a business that depends more than any other on punctuality. "If the train leaves at eight o'clock we have to be on it, because it will not wait," Franchisees cooperate with each other to cover for staff sickness, holidays, and accidents.

The Rightline trolley has been perfected to a standard which, Mr Jones says, his BR rival, InterCity On-Board Catering, has imitated but not equalled. Rightline is easily the largest private caterer on BR trains, but more and more small companies are competing for the business.

Details: 0244-351402.

Big firms learn
a 'small' lesson

The Confederation of British Industry national conference in Torquay this week was largely focused on bigger and broader issues than small businesses, but the "small is beautiful" philosophy was given an interesting plug in *People — the Cutting Edge*, a report that emphasizes the growing value of good staff.

The report by the CBI Employment Policy Committee sought to underline that, given the outlook of a declining number of school-leavers in Britain, companies will have increasingly to turn their people into a major source of competitiveness.

Here it appears that small firms have something which big business can learn from. The report notes that companies such as Unilever, and K12, the mining group, claim to draw strength from the fact that they have a large number of individual operating companies with a large degree of autonomy.

This "large company, small-firm ethos" gives these operating units greater proximity to the market place and puts them in a position to have the best knowledge of the consumer's requirements, the report says.

An American example of a firm which recognizes the efficiency of smallness —

Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing — shows how a company employing 87,000 people preserves flexibility and the right smallness through what it terms its "biological" organization.

When a new product sells well enough, a new division is set up. This has led to the company's median plant size being held at a modest 115 people. And only five of its 91 plants in the United States employ more than 1,000.

John Banham, the CBI director-general, used the Torquay conference to launch a strong attack on the Government's failure to cut the tax burden on business, while giving the consumer more to spend. He called on the Government to improve the tax situation for industry — the "true wealth creators" — a wish small firms would certainly like to see granted too.

In the area of urban regeneration and job creation, many delegates underlined the crucial role which small and local business could play.

Tom Frost, group chief executive of National Westminster Bank, also put in a plea for venture capital to be made more widely available outside the prosperous South-East. If his call is answered, small businesses in the regions could benefit.

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Bigsun looks a sporting proposition

By Michael Phillips
(Michael Phillips)
Bigsun, ridden by Marcus Armytage, is poised to win the Coln Valley Fish & Game Company Amateur Riders Novices Chase at Cheltenham today and thereby complete a notable double this week for one of the most sporting families in the land.
The first goal was achieved at Newbury on Wednesday when Springholm won the Winterbourne Handicap Chase carrying the colours of that respected senior citizen, Brigadier Roscoe Harvey.
Today should be the turn of his stepson John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the

hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.
Some will question the wisdom of suggesting that the day's best bet lies in a race for beginners, ridden by amateurs, but I will counter that by saying that Marcus Armytage is one of the most accomplished riders around and that he has already got to know Bigsun on the gallops.
Bigsun, for his part, impressed when winning his first stepchild race at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago.
The 6lb penalty that that victory entailed means that he must now give weight to Gleanvay whose rider, Tom Grantham, is every bit as good as Armytage.
By running so well at Plumpton first time out, when he was beaten less than two lengths by French Captain, Gleanvay served notice that he will prove a formidable rival.
However, I am confident that Bigsun can see him off over today's three-mile trip, which clearly suited him best when he was hurrying.
No matter how Gleanvay fares, his trainer Josh Gifford should not leave the course empty-handed, thanks to Coppe And Robbers (1.35) and Yeoman Broker (3.20).
Time may well show that Coppe And Robbers, my selection for the British Thoroughbred Racing And Breeding

Futurity to have new sponsor

Ten Plus springs boldly back into Gold Cup picture

By Jack Waterman
One of the biggest prestige races for two-year-olds, the one-mile Futurity Stakes, is no longer to be sponsored by the bookmakers, William Hill.
The race, itself held at Doncaster in October, however, is far from in danger.
The arrangement to terminate sponsorship was contingent on another sponsor being found. This has been done, and although there will be no official announcement for a day or two, it is virtually certain that the new sponsor is Arabi Investments, very probably the Racing Post.
The Futurity, as it is at present, has had a checkered history. It was started by Phil Miralga in 1961 when Miralga was the first winner.
Outstanding horses who have won it and gone on to three-year-old glory include Noblesse, Noddy, and most recently Reference Point.
The Observer newspaper took over the sponsorship from Telford and then William Hill succeeded them for 13 years.
The move is in consequence with the change in sponsorship direction by William Hill, but keeps them at the top of the hand-odds league with £500,000, including contributions of their parent company, Sears.
The abandoning of the Futurity competes their gradual withdrawal of support for two-year-old races, substituting their concentration on providing prize-money for a more middle and lower level of owners and trainers, in big handicaps.
The Lincolnshire Stakes, the traditional start of the Flat season, receives a massive increase to £250,000 from £200,000. The Stewards' Cup, Cambridgehire and Newmarket Handicap also enjoy substantial increases in value.
At the same time — and a welcome move for those who do the work in the industry — the prize for "best two-year-old horse" has been doubled to £200.
Dunwoody delay
Richard Dunwoody, who injured his left knee in a fall at Hereford on Tuesday, hopes to resume riding at Cheltenham today. If Dunwoody is not fit enough to ride Sherwood takes over on David Nicholson's 12.50. Tom Morgan, by half a length.
"Kildimo definitely has his first outing in the Hennessy Gold Cup. I will do what Ryan Price was so good at," said

CHEL TENHAM

Selections
By Michael Seely
1.00 BIGSUN (nap).
1.35 Coppe And Robbers.
2.10 Inde Pulse.
By Michael Seely
1.00 Bigsun. 2.45 COTTAGE RUN (nap).

Going: good to firm

1.0 COLN VALLEY FISH AND GAME COMPANY AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES CHASE (23.02.3m) (5 runners)
101 4992-1 BIGSUN 15 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
102 4992-2 FRENCH CAPTAIN 15 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
103 4992-3 BRIGADIER ROSCOE 15 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
104 4992-4 CELTIC FLIGHT 20 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
105 4992-5 GLEANVAY 15 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM BIGSUN arrived at Roscoe Harvey by good in a novice chase at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

1.35 BRITISH THOROUGHbred RACING AND BREEDING (STBR) CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (22.70.2m) (4 runners)
203 2115-05 CORAL LEBRIDE 10 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
204 2115-06 HEDON DANCER 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
205 2115-07 HEDON DANCER 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
206 2115-08 HEDON DANCER 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM CORAL LEBRIDE was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

2.10 PHILIP CORNISH NOVICES HURDLE (22.24.3m) (10 runners)
302 1362-11 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
303 1362-12 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
304 1362-13 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
305 1362-14 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM MYLAGE was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

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2.45 JOHN SEYFRIED MICKLETON HANDICAP CHASE (24.23.2m) (5 runners)

402 2235-05 COTTAGE RUN 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
403 2235-06 COTTAGE RUN 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
404 2235-07 COTTAGE RUN 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
405 2235-08 COTTAGE RUN 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM COTTAGE RUN was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

3.20 ALLIED DUNBAR HANDICAP CHASE (24.46.3m) (4 runners)

501 2211-01 PLAYBOY 23 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
502 2211-02 PLAYBOY 23 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
503 2211-03 PLAYBOY 23 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
504 2211-04 PLAYBOY 23 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM PLAYBOY was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

3.55 ASW HURDLE (23.08.2m) (7 runners)

602 1300-10 CALPAZ 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
603 1300-11 CALPAZ 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
604 1300-12 CALPAZ 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
605 1300-13 CALPAZ 21 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM CALPAZ was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

HEXHAM

Selections
By Michael Seely
1.0 Court Guest. 1.30 Ann Lily. 2.0 Telegraph
Harvest. 4.0 James Delight.

Going: good

1.0 BRIGANTES NOVICES CHASE (21.23.3m) (7 runners)
2 1P TARTAN TAKEOVER 15 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 2P-2 READY STEADY 22 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 3P-3 READY STEADY 22 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM TARTAN TAKEOVER was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

1.30 CORSTONPOT SELLING HURDLE (28.56.2m) (10 runners)

1 ARUM LILY 40 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 024 DANCING TOM 16 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 024 DANCING TOM 16 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 024 DANCING TOM 16 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM DANCING TOM was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

2.0 ROMAN WALL HANDICAP CHASE (22.17.3m) (8 runners)

1 054 LA BOULE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 054 LA BOULE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 054 LA BOULE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 054 LA BOULE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM LA BOULE was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

Course specialists

Michael Seely's selection: 3.10 Zagzag.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 YORKSHIRE HOLLY.

Abdulla buys Winter's stable

Leading Arab owner Khalid Abdulla has bought John Winter's Highfield Stables in Newmarket.
Contractors have been exchanged between Winter, who retired from training at the end of the Flat season, and Abdulla's bloodstock company Juddmonte Farms.
Winter said yesterday: "I am delighted that Prince Khalid Abdulla is the new owner. I am sure he will gain much pleasure from having some of his horses trained from 1989 when the stables will be refurbished."

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

2.40 ASTON ARMS NOVICES CHASE (21.56.3m) (15 runners)

12 001-11 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
13 001-12 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
14 001-13 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
15 001-14 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM MYLAGE was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

3.10 KINGS HEAD HANDICAP HURDLE (21.60.2m) (13 runners)

54 021-11 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
55 021-12 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
56 021-13 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
57 021-14 MYLAGE 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM MYLAGE was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

Wincanton results

1.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

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2.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4.15 (2m) 1. FELL CLIMB (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

MARKET RASEN

Selections
By Michael Seely
1.10 Good Point.
1.40 Sam De Vinci.
2.10 Lumberjack.
Michael Seely's selection: 3.10 Zagzag.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 YORKSHIRE HOLLY.

Going: good

1.10 WHITE SWAN SELLING HURDLE (21.04.3m) (16 runners)
1 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM GOOD POINT was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

1.40 D C COOK AUDI HANDICAP CHASE (22.97.3m) (7 runners)

1 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

FORM GOOD POINT was a first time out at Wincanton first time out, 15 days ago. He was ridden by John Horn, who has just flown from his home in the United States in the hope of seeing his colours carry to victory by Bigsun.

2.10 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (21.78.2m) (20 runners)

1 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
2 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
3 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50
4 0111 GOOD POINT 17 (M) (Horn) D Nicholson 7-11-7 M Armytage 50

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Course specialists

Michael Seely's selection: 3.10 Zagzag.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 YORKSHIRE HOLLY.

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A stylish way to visit the Masters

A luxury tennis weekend, including coaching from Rod Laver and Vijay Amritraj and tickets for the Nabisco Masters doubles at the Albert Hall, is the main prize in a competition presented today by *The Times*.

The winner and a guest will enjoy overnight accommodation at the five-star London Hilton Hotel on Park Lane on December 10 and 11, and will be joined that evening by two friends in a box for four at the semi-finals. The tournament is recognized as the world championship of doubles.

A two-course meal with wine will be served and, either on Saturday or Sunday, courtesy of Nabisco, all four will share a court for technical advice from Laver, a former holder of the grand slam, and Amritraj, one of the most colourful characters in the modern game.

The Spanish pair Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez, won the United States championship to move up to fourth in the World Championship Tennis (WCT) rankings. With the top

three of the grand slam tournament pairs are firmly in the running for the Albert Hall. Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, the Wimbledon champions, are second in the rankings to the Australian championship winners, Rick Leach and Jim Fargis.

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How Ireland became the third greatest sporting nation in the world behind Finland and East Germany

League of small nations rules the world

What is the world's greatest sporting nation? This is the question asked by a new book, *The Pirelli Ultimate World Championship 1987-88*. The book takes the international sporting year — professional boxing, Wimbledon, the world athletics championship, the Winter Olympics, Formula One racing — and awards points to each nation that wins a place in the first eight.

Then comes the gimmick. Each points award is then multiplied by a "levelling factor." This is based solely on population. Thus a tiny nation will get an enhanced points value while a large nation will find its score diminished. Finland's points were multiplied by 10.18, points scored by the United States by 0.21.

The whole thing is an amusing conceit. It is also full of nonsense. A victory is worth 300 points, so that means that when Stephen Roche won the Tour de France his score was multiplied by Ireland's levelling factor, so that he ended up with 4,326 points. India, with 145 points for finishing third in the cricket World Cup, finished with 10.15.

The flaw in the book's reasoning is immediately apparent. India is not one of the great sporting nations, not because it lacks taste for sport, but because for much of the population staying alive is a problem. India has a population of 748 million, which



Simon Barnes

means that any points scored are drastically diminished, multiplied by 0.07.

I found this all rather depressing. India is burdened by its problems of immensity and teeming millions. In a silly game we find that the country is not compensated for these problems but penalized for them. There is perhaps a political and economic moral here.

A book such as this is designed as an ingenious, frothy nonsense. Sport is many things to many people. With some it is an inspiration to poetry, with others an inspiration to mathematics and charts. The joy of cricket, to many others, is the sublimity of double-entry book-keeping, which is the cornerstone of the method of keeping the score.

The game is centred around a bit of maths. The scoring system spells out with almost pedantic clarity the fact that professional sport is the pastime of the developed nations.

Professional sport — getting paid for playing games — is the ultimate luxury. Perhaps that is why nations so often seek prestige through victory in sporting events. A successful athlete is like a third

Porsche, or a second swimming pool: not much use save to trumpet status to the world.

The book ruthlessly brings every sporting achievement down to the level of nationalism. In the end, this gets to you. Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel, said Dr Johnson: sporting jingoism is lower still.

It brought me back to all those appalling Olympic victory laps with Stars and Stripes or Union Jacks. No one wins an athletics gold medal "for Britain." Any athlete good enough to win does it to show he or she is the best. Steve Archibald, the footballer, once said that team spirit is an illusion you glimpse in victory. Sporting "patriotism" is the same.

I had a vision during the opening ceremony at the Olympics. I confess I rather enjoy the entry of the athletes, nation by nation, flag by flag. The nations in line, their diversity before us: that is not a poor prospect. It certainly gets the Games off to a fair start.

But wouldn't it be splendid, I thought, if the flag-bearers could dump their flags, the nations break formation, and each join his fellow-compatriots under the banner of his individual sport. Then they could march out under the Olympic flag, nationalistic fervour, the problems of history, the differences of life, symbolically put in abeyance for the fortnight.

But no. We got more and more jingoism, which culminated in the awful silliness at the closing ceremony, in which rival flags were wafted in the faces of opposing nations and the whole business became a ceremony of awful camped-up, hysterical last-night-of-the-Proms patriotism. The British squad, with a spectacular mass headless chicken impersonation, led the way.

In the end, differences were not sunk. They were emphasized. And in the end this not unpleasant book left me feeling thoroughly depressed. The winner, by the way, was, shock-horror, East Germany. The top 10 were: 1, East Germany; 2, Finland; 3, Ireland; 4, Switzerland; 5, Sweden; 6, New Zealand; 7, Austria; 8, Bulgaria; 9, Australia; 10, Norway. The United Kingdom came eleventh and India last.

● Memo to Simon Barnes, the Radio One disc jockey: I see from the book, *The Pirelli Ultimate World Championship 1987-88*, by Chris Jordan (Arthur Barker, £8.95), that, as coincidence would have it, you also write for *The Times* on sporting subjects. In fact, I see from the lines quoted on page 162, and attributed to you, that by a further cosmic coincidence you have written exactly the same words as me. Isn't that extraordinary? But then it was not one of Dr Trelawney's fine beliefs that "coincidence is magic in action"?



Levelling factor: 300 points for Roche become 4,326 for Ireland

RUGBY UNION: FRENCH CAN TAKE A TIP FROM THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS AND BE ON THEIR TOES AGAINST A CONFIDENT ARGENTINA

A Cook's tour of the other side of Samoa

By Gerald Davies

Western Samoa play Wales tomorrow in the last match of their tour. Richard Cook, their coach, is unsparring in his praise of the Welsh Rugby Union, and in particular of George Morgan, the immediate past president of the union, who toured Cook's country two years ago with the Welsh team, and of Ray Williams, its secretary, who kept faith with rugby's development in the islands by keeping so swiftly to a promise to invite the Samoans on this tour.

"This is our first major tour," Cook said. "And it has been a unique experience for our players, for which we are thankful to Wales. The hospitality has been marvellous in both countries. Our players have learnt about the essential sportsmanship on rugby both on and off the field."

"Be a man, my son, be a man" is a favourite saying in Samoa. It is easy to suggest such qualities when you win but not when you lose, or you are far away from home and have to travel to Wales. The hospitality has been marvellous in both countries. Our players have learnt about the essential sportsmanship on rugby both on and off the field."

They have had to travel to Wales and Ireland for that experience, since they have not toured their near neighbours, Australia and New Zealand, who are, in no small way, the beneficiaries of Samoan rugby.

"There are 17 of our players back in New Zealand and I've wondered," Cook mused, "what the tour would have been like had we been able to top up the current party, all of them young, with some of those experienced players."

Some are already All Blacks. John Schuster, for instance, whose brother, Peter, is the assistant coach of this tour. There is the more familiar Joe Stanley and the most famous of the trio, Michael Jones, the brilliant flanker. Three others are in the New Zealand Colts team. Other Samoans prefer to move across the Pacific in the other direction. Six play professional football in the United States.

Cook was born in Samoa but went to school at King's College in Auckland. While farming in Gisborne he played rugby for Poverty Bay. But when he moved to Whangarei he could not quite make the North Auckland side in the late Sixties. His biggest rugby influence was his father, the late Walter hooker, who first played for his province when he was 18 and did not look back until 21 years later. He retired at 39.

Cook took a trip back to Samoa in 1977 and settled there

in 1980. He runs a canned food processing company as well as managing a 27,000-acre plantation of coconuts and coconuts. There are 35 clubs spread throughout a population of 860,000 in the two islands. But the main representation for the tour has come from the eight clubs in the capital city, Apia.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm among the schoolchildren," Cook said. "But we have very little money for kit and equipment. We depend a lot on the throw-aways from New Zealand. We need more money to develop. The next step for us is to encourage more and more seven-a-side and 10-a-side games. The children love these; the full-blown stuff can come later on."

"There is a desperate need, too, for pitches. The islands are largely of volcanic rock and we need to sieve the soil to get rid of the hard bits. There is still competition, therefore, for the few pitches available for soccer, hockey and rugby league. We have been very anxious to develop all the facilities over here."

Such a hard-playing surface must account for the way they enjoy playing on top of the ground. "It is a game of handling and passing, after all," Cook said. "And we enjoy scoring tries. People have commented on how we play on our toes. In contrast, too many players over here look as if they've got heavy gumboots on."

Fitness preparation has played its role, and, inevitably, in that part of the world Cook has sought the advice of Jim Blair, New Zealand's fitness and conditioning guru. It has paid off. Against Connacht they scored four tries to the opposition's one. Two more tries were scored in the last five minutes against Ulster, and in the last quarter against Pontefract a couple of tries secured them a victory in the last quarter.

"We have learned a good deal about set-pieces. We need more ball. But I've been surprised over here how, when we so often lose the ball, the opposition are quite happy to kick it away. They waste such a lot. But we will have to get better technique in the scrums and lineouts if we are to compete at the highest level."

Among all the happy memories, his clear aim is to get Western Samoa to qualify for the next World Cup, and since they beat Fiji this year, he is glad that there will be qualifying rounds next time.

Fit-again Milano revives Pumas' hopes of salvage

From Chris Thau, Lille

With France losing two key men, Bourguignon and Dintrans, and Argentina gaining two experienced campaigners, Suarez-Gache and Milano, the odds for the second international in Lille today have evened out.

After a morale-boosting win against the French Army on Tuesday, Argentina are greatly confident. France, although a formidable outfit playing in front of their own public, suddenly seem vulnerable.

Bourguignon reigned supreme in the lineout in Nantes, where his two-handed catches — 14 in all — have provided France with the main source of top-quality ball. It is doubtful if Condom and Lorieux, the men who are recalled to the team, can between them reproduce such a commanding performance.

At the tail of the line, Champ regularly won his flying contest against the Argentine pack. But Allen, leaving Argentina to live dangerously on scraps of poor quality possession won by lachetti. Milano's entry is expected to redress the balance in the lineout in addition to his formidable presence in both tight and loose.

Concussed in Marmande

The teams

FRANCE: S. Blanco (Barret); P. Becot (Agen); P. Sella (Agen); M. Audouin (Nantes); P. Lachetti (Bordeaux); J. L. M

SPORT

tomorrow...

The issues
and the people
in the world
of sport

In colour:
The Senna
and Prost
Grand Prix
Super Show

The Sea Trout
A classic story

Fancy meeting
you here!
Stringer and
Docherty at the
top of the table

English clubs aim to renew their European identity

By John Goodbody

England will apply for its clubs to be readmitted to the 1989-90 European competitions, although the new national membership scheme to counter hooliganism will not be operational until late in that season.

Ted Croker, the secretary of the Football Association, said yesterday that the FA "was under an obligation to make an application." The governing body withdrew a request to enter this season's tournaments after the violence at the European championship in West Germany last June when 800 people, including 372 Englishmen, were arrested.

The English clubs have been

banned from the European competitions since the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster. It was after the deaths of 39 supporters in Brussels that the Prime Minister first suggested League clubs introduce a 100 per cent scheme.

But a UEFA spokesman said that although the European governing body obviously welcomed any measure that reduced violence, nevertheless the scheme, which obliges supporters to carry identity cards to gain admission to games, would apply only to matches in England.

"We cannot measure how this could have an influence on the behaviour of fans in

Europe and this is what we are concerned about," he said.

UEFA will again ask the Government for its opinion on whether English clubs should be readmitted to the three cup competitions. Last season Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, refused to endorse the FA's application saying it was for UEFA to decide.

He will take the same attitude when UEFA discusses the application next summer, although he will again provide details of arrests, ejections from grounds and major incidents this season.

Almost all European countries want the English clubs to return to the competitions because they attract large crowds and the tournaments have become devalued. UEFA was to have made a decision after this year's European championship but the FA withdrew the application.

Asked how the European governing body could be expected to make a decision next summer on such scanty evidence, Croker replied: "There are a large number of friendly matches between English and foreign clubs abroad at the beginning and end of the season and a certain number of supporters do travel with teams."

Although he accepted that there were incidents involving the English at the European championship last summer, the overall impression in England of the behaviour of supporters was "a false one."

Croker cited the official report which, he said, concluded that English supporters "behaved favourably compared with other supporters." Croker would like to see all the European clubs put on probation so that if there was trouble involving their supporters those clubs could be sanctioned.

He accepted that the 1990 World Cup in Italy would be "another major test".

Bates is beaten by his flaws

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Predictably, the challenge of playing at the same level as two higher-ranked players on consecutive days was a little too much for Jeremy Bates in the Benson and Hedges tennis championships at Wembley. He had played remarkably well to dispose of Guy Forget but, yesterday, was beaten 7-5, 6-2 by Amos Mansdorf.

Forget and Mansdorf are younger than Bates and, technically, slightly less gifted. But they have been more consistently successful match-players and thus graduated to regular competition at the highest level. That makes players mentally and physically resilient.

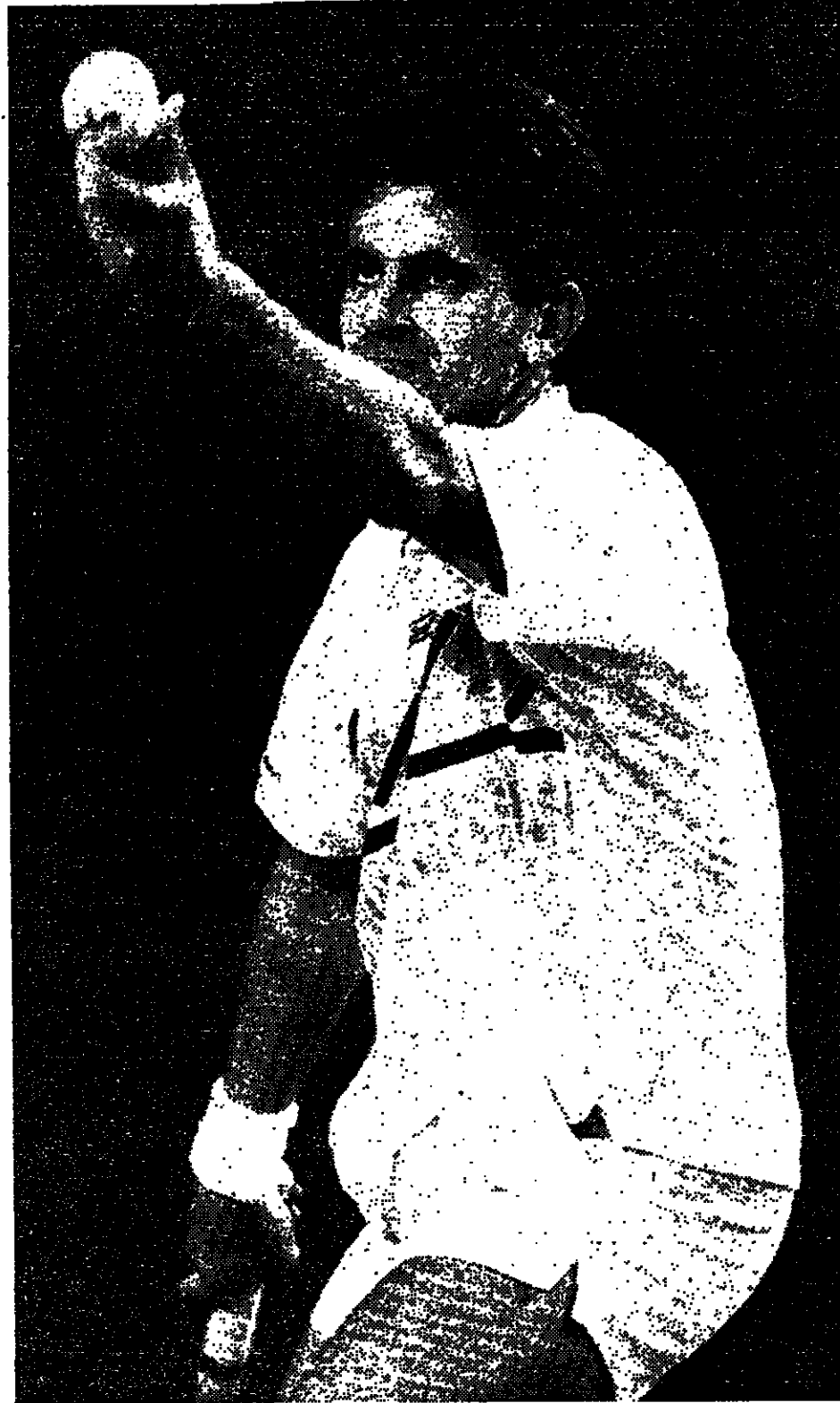
As Muhammad Ali once observed after a bout with Joe Frazier, the test of a man's class and character is his ability to take a lot of punishment and then bounce back to his best form. The analogy with tennis is loose but pertinent. Bates would be a better fighter, more at ease with the likes of Forget and Mansdorf, if he climbed into the ring with them more often.

Yesterday, Bates did not serve well. But his main deficiency, arising from some flaw in the mind, was his inability to play the critical points as well as he had done against Forget.

"I hung in, on quite a few," Bates said. "But today I made many more errors. I didn't feel physically tired, but when I had chances I had a weak attitude towards them. I missed too many balls at the crucial times." Bates referred to "a lack of self-belief". It was difficult, he added, "to make yourself self-confident."

Psychologists could make a meal out of that. Maybe Bates is too sensitive. One would like to see in him a little less self-analysis and little more Edmund Hillary. Having climbed Everest, Hillary merely observed: "We knocked the bastard off."

Mansdorf is an even better Israeli player than his one-time mentor, Shlomo Glickstein. By contrast with Bates, Mansdorf is a little weary because he has been playing so well and winning so often that there has not been much time to rest. But on the evidence of this match, he has forgotten how to play badly.



Victory within grasp: Mansdorf winds up at Wembley yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Mansdorf did point out, though, that the top men were more formidable on the big points than Bates was yesterday. They had a pleasantly constructed but low-keyed match. Neither is a superman and neither tries to play like one. They simply did the basics fluently and, on the whole, rather well. It was rather like watching an athletic form of expert knitting.

John Fitzgerald, one of that host of genial Australians with a string of grand slam doubles titles to their names, beat Christian Saccanu 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

6-3. Australians are exemplary in many ways and not the least of these is their traditional insistence that the complete player must achieve a measure of prominence not only in singles but also in doubles.

Fitzgerald has done that. Yesterday he had a run of eight consecutive games. In the process he displayed the doubles specialist's ability to explore the short angles and arrange downward volleys for himself and upward volleys for the other chap.

Saccanu, aged 20, spent the

first 15 years of his life in his father's country, Romania, before the family moved to his mother's country, West Germany. Saccanu took on Boris Becker's former coach, Gunter Bosch.

Saccanu is a tall and (between points) inscrutably languid man with an erect, almost military bearing which at times raises images of Miloslav Mecir. Unfortunately for Saccanu, his tennis is some way below the Becker-Mecir level.

RESULTS: Second round: J. Fitzgerald (AUS) bt C. Saccanu (FRG), 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; A. Mansdorf (ISR) bt J. Bates (GB), 7-5, 6-2.

Clubs should pay all police costs

By David Miller

Football collectively complains about the cost, and threat to attendances, of the card membership scheme. I have an alternative suggestion for Colin Moynihan. Authorize the police forces to send the bill to the home football club for providing an escort to and from the railway station for visiting spectators. Were football to be charged for this exclusively football-related cost to the ratepayer, it would not be a month before every club would be visiting supporters, in the way Luton sensibly has done.

Football continues blindly to argue about the cost to itself of safety systems, without ever counting the cost to the community of the continuing existence of football as it is at present conducted.

Why should it be necessary, or tolerated, that every Saturday afternoon or Wednesday evening, dozens of police forces across the country have to enlist additional men from

neighbouring counties to convey and control visiting supporters travelling to and from a match?

Clubs reap the reward of mindless medieval things of actual or potential violence obscenely chanting as they threaten to march from station to stadium under the surveillance of mounted police, dog handlers and, occasionally riot police. Is this sport?

If football authorities think it is, let them pay for it, at a realistic cost of, say, £10,000 a match. They would soon lose their enthusiasm for visiting spectators, and much of the obscenity of football would be eradicated overnight.

The public at present pays the bill for police supervision outside grounds, while the clubs reap the reward of the gate money and pay only for police inside the grounds. I dearly love football, but hate the environment which football clubs have been happy to tolerate for over 20 years.

Sponsors' door is kept ajar

Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive designate, has reopened the controversial subject of FA Cup sponsorship and invited potential backers to "make us an offer we can't refuse."

Last year when the FA turned down a lucrative bid to sponsor the competition from the brewers of Foster's Lager, Ted Croker, the man, whose job Kelly is shortly to take at Lancaster Gate, vowed publicly that the Cup would never be taken over by sponsorship. But Kelly says yesterday: "There might be a future circumstance where it could be open to sponsorship."

He stressed: "We could not risk any dilution of the FA Cup's prestige and tradition by having a sponsor's name directly attached to it. But there still might be an offer we would find hard to refuse."

Kelly, who was speaking at a Football Writers' lunch, also accepted an award on behalf of the FA from the Football League's sponsors, Barclays Bank. "The new award has been entitled 'The good news award' and the FA are the first winners for the loyalty they have shown to the England manager Bobby Robson in 'difficult circumstances'."

Millwall and Leeds paired in Simod Cup

Millwall and Leeds United, two clubs battling to shake off the notorious reputation of their supporters, have been paired together at The Den in the second round of the Simod Cup.

When they met in the second division last season, the Football Association and police ordered a morning kick-off, an all-ticket match and a tight security blanket around Millwall's ground at Cold Blow Lane.

Their latest all-ticket game on November 29, comes at a time when football hooliganism is again a thorny subject. But the Millwall secretary, Graham Horp, has no worries about crowd trouble.

DRAMA: Southampton v Crystal Palace or Ipswich v Derby County v Aston Villa; Blackburn v Manchester City v Sunderland; Millwall v Leeds United; Watford v West Ham; Middlesbrough v Oldham v Portsmouth; Oxford v Ipswich v Norwich; Bradford City v Chelsea. Ties to be played from November 21.

Fashanu charged over 'assault'

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

John Fashanu has been charged by the Football Association of bringing the game into disrepute. If found guilty, Wimbledon's abrasive centre forward could be ordered to pay the same heavy penalty of a nine-match suspension which was imposed at the end of September on Paul Davis, of Arsenal.

Fashanu is alleged to have assaulted Viv Anderson, who had to have three stitches in a facial wound, in the tunnel after the Littlewoods Cup tie between Wimbledon and Manchester United at Plough Lane last week. The FA was alerted to the incident by the reported comments of Alex Ferguson the following day.

United's manager was asked for his observations. "Either something took place which should have been reported," Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive said yesterday, "or it could be argued that, once he had gone public, he himself might be charged with bringing the game into disrepute."

The subsequent reply, officially from Old Trafford but apparently specifically from Ferguson, persuaded the FA to send a letter to Wimbledon on

Wednesday, Fashanu will have 14 days in which to appeal and request a personal hearing. Kelly hopes that the case will be closed rapidly. "I'm very keen for the FA to take the appropriate action but I cannot say anything that would prejudice the situation."

Kelly stressed that there is no distinction between a punch thrown on the pitch, by Davis at Glenn Cockerill for example, and any similar physical attack which might occur off the pitch. The police, who did not witness the alleged exchange between Fashanu and Anderson, are not expected to be involved in the hearing.

"As was said after the incident involving Davis, football is capable of handling discipline within the game," Kelly added. "That is the principle we have always adopted."

Bobby Gould, the Wimbledon manager, said: "We welcome the FA inquiry and Fashanu will definitely be asking for a personal hearing."

Fashanu said: "The FA had to act because of all the publicity and I'm convinced I will clear my name because the truth must come out."

In-form Brand has victory in his sights

Adelaide (Reuter) — Gordon Brand Jr, of Britain, maintained his four-shot lead to move within two rounds of his first win on Australian soil with a second round of 69 in the South Australian Open Golf Championship yesterday.

Brand, who shot a course record 64 on Wednesday, has a seven-under-par 36-hole total of 133 to lead by four shots from a trio of Australians, including Sunday's winner of the Australian PGA title, Wayne Grady.

Grady added a 69 to his opening 68 and is tied with Jason Deep and Greg Alexander. Deep had the day's best round, a 64 after having led the first two rounds.

Brand, aged 31, finished a creditable third in the Australian Open last year, but has now modified his swing.

Despite his position, Brand was annoyed by bad shots on the second, ninth and 11th holes, which resulted in bogeys.

Mix that matches the best

From Patricia Davies, Madrid

The compatible Staffordshire pairing of Suzanne Strudwick and Andrew Stubbs proved the perfect mix on the first day of the Benson and Hedges Trophy yesterday.

Playing the greensomes version of foursomes, they returned a 66, six under par, to lead by one stroke from José María Cañizares and Tania Abitbol, a potentially scintillating Spanish partnership, who finished with three birdies.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi de Taya and Mark McNulty, the favourites, were on 69 after recovering from an unexpected six, a double-bogey, at the first hole. Taya, winner of seven tournaments on her own this year, was asked to play the second shot to the first green, a straightforward wedge of some 100 yards.

To the amazement of her partner — and everyone else — she shanked out of bounds, an unfortunate double-first in a season that had, until then,

featured neither fault.

Taya denied feeling nervous, but fluffed a chip at the next, where her partner had to hole from 12 feet for par. He settled them down with a long birdie putt at the fourth, and they had four more birdies to finish respectably.

Stubbs and Strudwick knew of each other from their amateur days and quickly realized that their games were well matched. Both tend to keep the ball on the fairway and putt well, and they got off to the perfect start when Strudwick holed from 12 feet for a birdie three at the first.

They added seven more birdies, prompting Stubbs to joke that he had not had that many all season. He made only three cuts and earned some £25,000 less than his partner. Strudwick sank the putt on the first nine and Stubbs rolled in a couple of good ones coming home, including a tramline of 40

feet for a birdie two at the 15th.

That was the hole where Strudwick had a novel reason for favouring her five-wound putt. David Partridge, her caddy, had broken the shaft of her three-iron when he used it to prop up his washing line last week.

The club had been reshuffled, but the grip had been replaced the wrong way round and did not feel comfortable in her hand. Fortunately, Partridge finds La Moraleja's small but undulating greens easy to read and was able to redeem himself.

LEADING SCORES (68 and he unless stated): 66: A. Stubbs and S. Strudwick; 67: J. M. Cañizares (ESP) and T. Abitbol (ESP); 68: S. de Lorenzi and M. McNulty; 69: J. Deep and G. Alexander; 70: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 71: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 72: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 73: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 74: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 75: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 76: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 77: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 78: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 79: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 80: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 81: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 82: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 83: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 84: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 85: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 86: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 87: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 88: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 89: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 90: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 91: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 92: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 93: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 94: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 95: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 96: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 97: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 98: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 99: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares; 100: J. B. Cañizares and J. B. Cañizares.

Launch in Edinburgh

England and Scotland will stage grand prix athletics meetings next season. The Miller Lite International in Edinburgh on July 7 will foreshadow the Peugeot Games at Crystal Palace a week later.

In addition, the McVities Challenge at Crystal Palace on September 15, is listed as one of 16 invitation meetings by the International Athletics Association Federation (IAAF).

County cash

Newport County are to make assurances regarding their financial viability to the GM Vauxhall Conference following reports that the club are to appear in the High Court next month because of outstanding debts.



Sharma: lured to League

Sharma signs

Chetan Sharma, the India Test all-rounder, left out of plans for the Asia Cup and the first Test against the touring New Zealanders, has signed for a further season as club professional with Milnrow in the Central Lancashire League.

Fine tribute

John Morris has unanimously won the World Boxing Council's latest commissioner of the year award.

Nicklaus relief

Valencia (AP) — Jack Nicklaus Jr qualified for the finals of the PGA's qualifying school in La Manga next month for the first time with a 71 at the El Saler Golf Club here.

Kelly's chance

Joe Kelly, Scotland's leading flyweight, has been nominated to challenge Eyup Can, of Turkey, for the vacant European championship in Copenhagen next month.

Gloves are off

Rugby League players have been banned from wearing gloves during matches after Ron Gibbs, of Castleford, injured Mike Gregory, of Warrington.

Bowled over

Glamorgan have tied up a three-year sponsorship deal aimed at developing cricket at all levels in Wales.

Amarnath may be gathering a rebel team

Bangalore (AFP) — A rebel Indian cricket team may tour South Africa this winter. Mohinder Amarnath, aged 38, the Indian Test batsman, is understood to have been asked by a London-based South African businessman to assemble a 14-man party to play three unofficial Tests and five one-day matches in the Republic from January.

Amarnath, dropped for the first Test against New Zealand that starts here tomorrow, is believed to have been offered 10 million rupees (\$667,000) to sign up players and Dilip Doshi, the former Indian left-arm spinner, is thought to have agreed to go.

However, India is in the forefront of the anti-apartheid campaign and a government spokesman in Delhi warned: "They cannot go to South Africa as their passport is not valid for that country."

Davis fined £12,000 for interview boycott

By Steve Atkinson

Steve Davis, the world snooker champion whose disciplinary record over some 10 years as a professional is exemplary, was last night fined £12,000, the equivalent levy administered on a player in the sport's history, for his part in the Matchroom boycott of media interviews during the recent Rothmans Grand Prix at Reading.

Davis, the tournament winner, was fined the most heavily because he had refused the most interviews. Six of his Matchroom colleagues were also publicly reprimanded and fined, following a disciplinary hearing in Preston, where the United Kingdom championship starts today.

The hearing lasted five hours, but it then took the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association a

further three to draft a statement. Barry Hearn, the Matchroom chairman, would not comment until he had time to study that statement, although it is believed he will appeal against the sentence which followed the players' action in response to their organization's legal dispute with Rothmans.

Gavin Lightman was the independent arbitrator who decided the fines. He was advised by John Virgo, the chairman of the WPBSA, and his fellow board members, Gordon Ingham and Bill Oliver.

Apart from Davis, Willie Thorne was fined £1,000, Tony Meo £2,000, Neal Foulds £3,000, Terry Griffiths and Jimmy White £4,000, and Dennis Taylor £8,000.

END COLUMN

Millwall buy record asset

By Louise Taylor

Millwall grew another inch as a first division club yesterday when Paul Stephenson had no hesitation about turning his back on Newcastle United in favour of becoming the south-east London club's record £275,000 signing.

"We agreed a fee for Mick Quinn with Portsmouth three years ago but the player refused to come and see us, he wouldn't even talk to Millwall," Reg, the club's chairman, said. "Although we have paid £225,000 for Neil Raddock and £250,000 for Tony Casciaro since then signing Stephenson is a yardstick indicating just how far the club has come."

The fact that Paul made up his mind to step out of Newcastle's first team to play for us in about the same time as it took to type out his contract says something about our progress."

After being hailed as an even brighter protégé than Paul Gascoigne when Newcastle won the FA Youth Cup four years ago, his career has slipped into obscurity and he has yet to fulfill the precocious promise of three seasons ago when he broke into the first team.

The acquisition of the 20-year-old whose exploits on the right wing at St James' Park earned him two England youth international caps as a teenager is not the sole symbol of Millwall's metamorphosis from second and third division mediocrity to a club placed third in the first division. Increasingly Millwall are being regarded as a role model for relationships between football clubs and the community whereas once they seemed



Stephenson: moving south only to attract attention for their hooligan following.

The fact that Millwall are in a position to offer Stephenson a contract which will enable him to exchange life with his parents on Tyne-side for a foothold on the expensive London property ladder is indicative that Millwall's ambitions are large-scale.

"From a financial viewpoint Paul has got a very, very good deal," Burr said.

Will Stephenson settle in London, though? Burr said: "We feel Millwall is much more like a northern than a southern club. We believe the atmosphere here is like that in the North-East and Paul will not be without company."

Stephenson, after 24 hours in London, was inclined to agree: "A day ago I didn't know anyone here but now I feel I know all the players really well. It's that friendly here."

Stephenson's function will, presumably, be to wind his way past defenders on the right wing before delivering the sort of measured, precise crosses which will create goals for Sheringham and Casciaro in the middle. "The thought of playing with Teddy and Tony was a big influence in my decision to come," he said.

He may find himself playing alongside them at Anfield tomorrow but there is no guarantee of an immediate first team place. "Paul will join our squad travelling to Liverpool," John Docherty, the manager, said. "He is a welcome addition whose assets will complement the players already here. I don't know when or where I will play him in the first team."

The low-key arrival is markedly different from the agent-accompanied hype which surrounded Paul Gascoigne at Tottenham. The contrast does not end there: Stephenson is introvert by nature and was purchased for little more than one-tenth of the £2 million splashed out on his close friend.

When they were teenagers, Stephenson was expected to go the farther. "I'm under a lot less pressure than Gazza so it should be easier for me. He is a great player but I've always liked to think that I will be better."